# 水域

漆原友紀

上

# 水音（すいおん）

漆間裕紀

水音（すいおん）
漆間裕紀

Hox, Illuminati-Manga & Scantily-Clad Present

# Waters 水域

## Volume 1

Urushibara Yuki 漆原友紀

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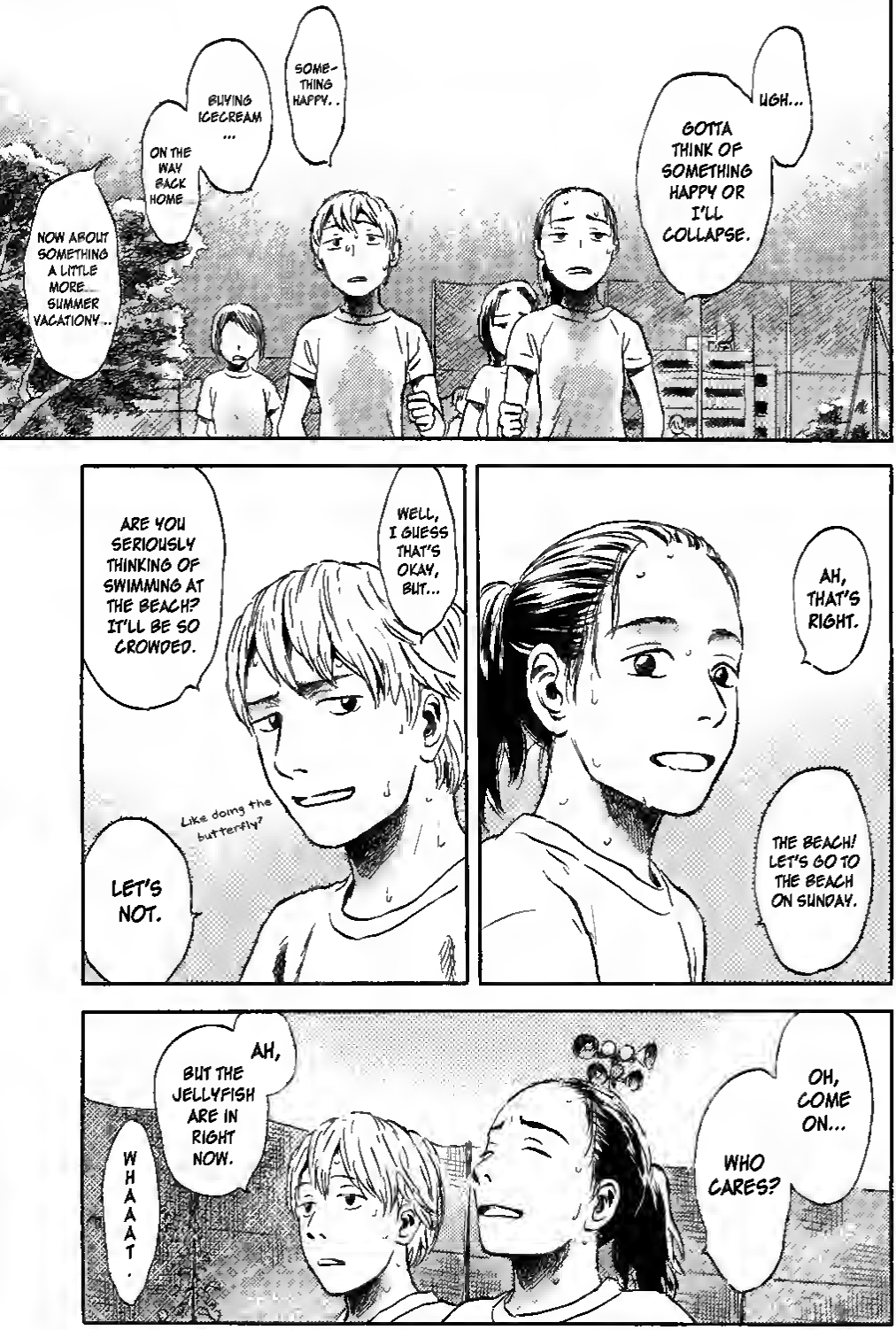
AND THE CHANCE FOR RAIN IS 0% FOR THE WHOLE DAY.
IT WILL AGAIN BE ANOTHER HOT, DRY DAY.
AND NOW, FOR TOMORROW'S WEATHER REPORT.
DUE TO THE RECENT LACK OF RAINFALL, LAKE MIYAMA HAS 30% LESS WATER THAN THE YEARLY AVERAGE.
THE REGIONS DOWNSTREAM ARE NOW ALL EXPERIENCING WATER SHORTAGES.
WE ASK THAT ALL RESIDENTS CONSERVE WATER...

Chapter 01
Upstream

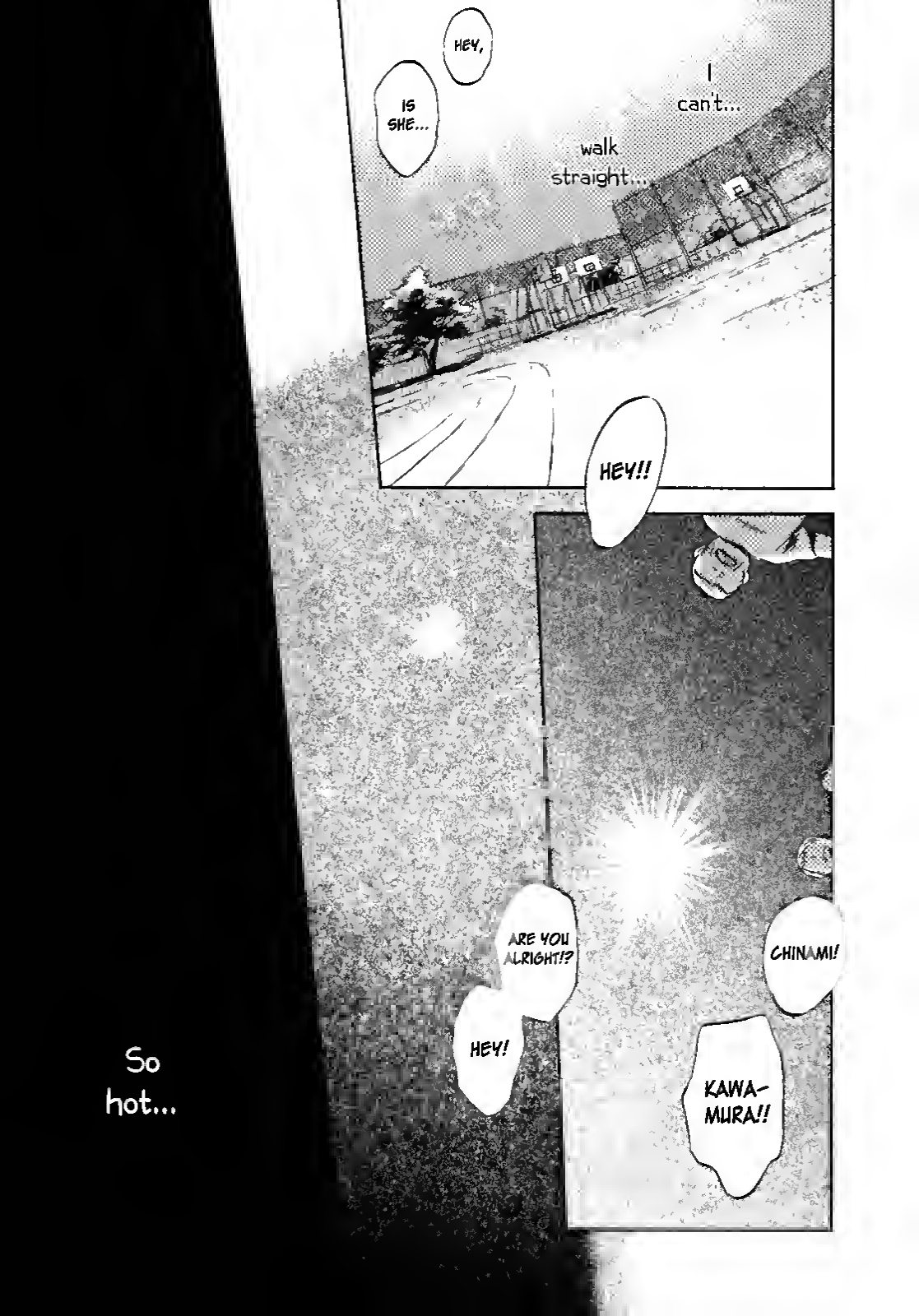
The pool is closed today due to water shortages
AH...
SO HOT...
IT'S SO HOT IT HURTS...
..YEAH.
FEELS LIKE I'M BEING STABBED ALL OVER
JUST WHAT...
ARE WE DOING OUT HERE? AREN'T WE THE SWIMMING TEAM?

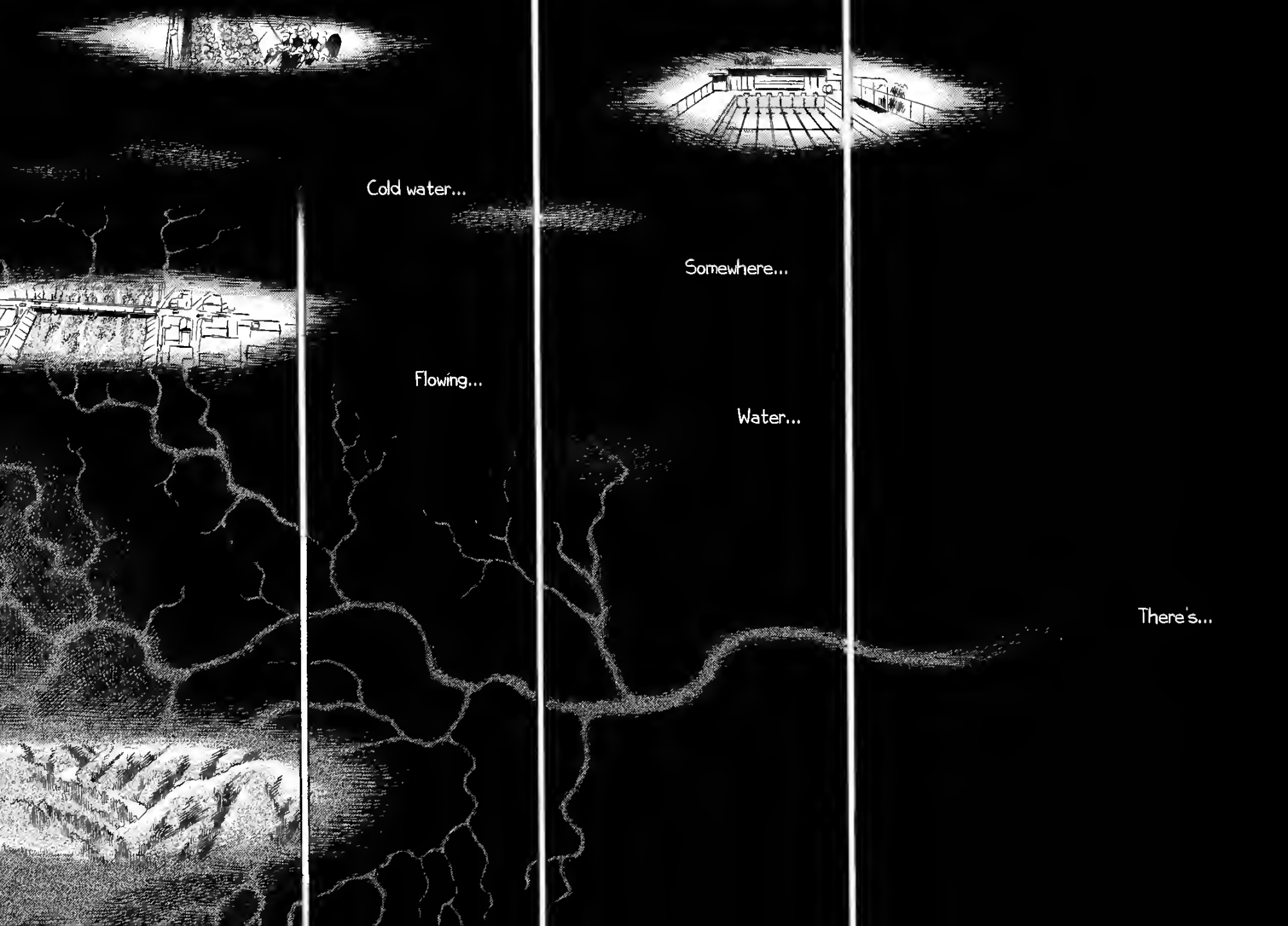

UGH...
GOTTA THINK OF SOMETHING HAPPY OR I'LL COLLAPSE.
SOMETHING HAPPY..
BUYING ICECREAM ...
ON THE WAY BACK HOME
NOW ABOUT SOMETHING A LITTLE MORE... SUMMER VACATION-...
AH, THAT'S RIGHT.
THE BEACH! LET'S GO TO THE BEACH ON SUNDAY.
WELL, I GUESS THAT'S OKAY, BUT...
ARE YOU SERIOUSLY THINKING OF SWIMMING AT THE BEACH? IT'LL BE SO CROWDED.
Like doing the butterfly?
LET'S NOT.
OH, COME ON...
WHO CARES?
AH, BUT THE JELLYFISH ARE IN RIGHT NOW.
WHAAAAT.

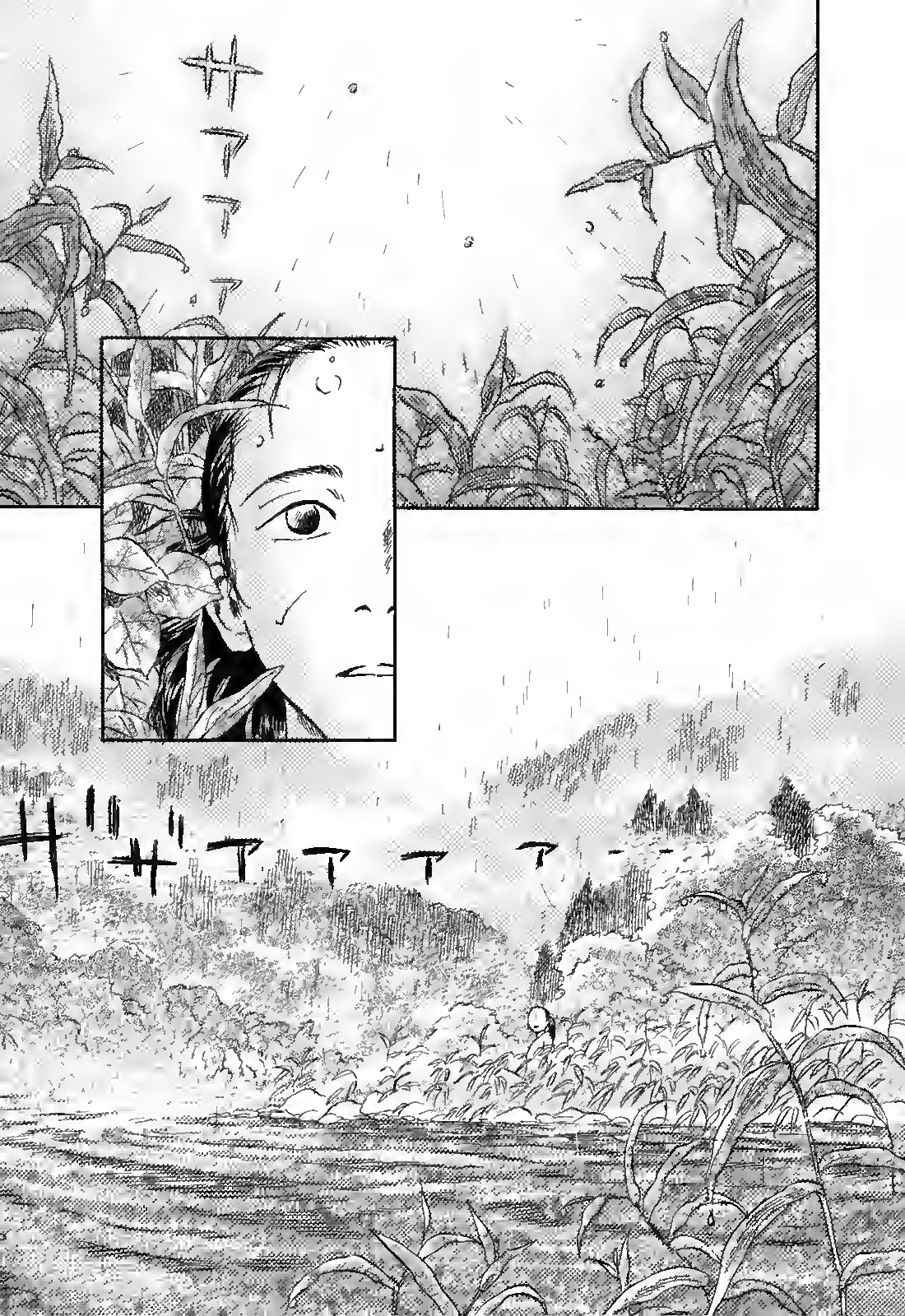
HEY!
STOP YAPPIN' AND START RUNNING!
OH, ME TOO!
I GUESS ...
IT'LL BE COOL AT THE MALL.
MNN ...
LET'S JUST GO SHOPPING INSTEAD.
STOP BEING STUPID.
AS IF I'D EVER WASTE WATER LIKE THAT.
IF WE DRAIN IT AFTERWARDS, THE PRINCIPAL WON'T FIND OUT.
TEA-CHER, JUST FILL UP THE POOL, PLEASE...!
AGH...
I DIDN'T JOIN THE SWIMMING CLUB TO RUN IN THIS HOT WEATHER...

HMPH,
YOU KIDS REMIND ME OF FISH ON LAND.
JUST LYING THERE, LOOKING CLOSE TO DEATH,
AND YOUR MOUTHS GASPING FOR WATER.
IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, THEN...
ORAAAAA!
AH.
SHE'S GOING TO WEAR HERSELF OUT...
KAWA-MURA!
DON'T PUSH YOURSELF TOO HARD NOW.
(hah)
(hah)

hah
AH,
SHE'S ALL OUT OF ENERGY ALREADY.
WHAT AN IDIOT...
hah
hah
Huh?
hah
What the...?
The ground feels all light and fluffy.


HEY,
IS SHE...
I can't...
walk straight...
HEY!!
ARE YOU ALRIGHT!?
HEY!
CHINAMI!
KAWA-MURA!!
So hot...

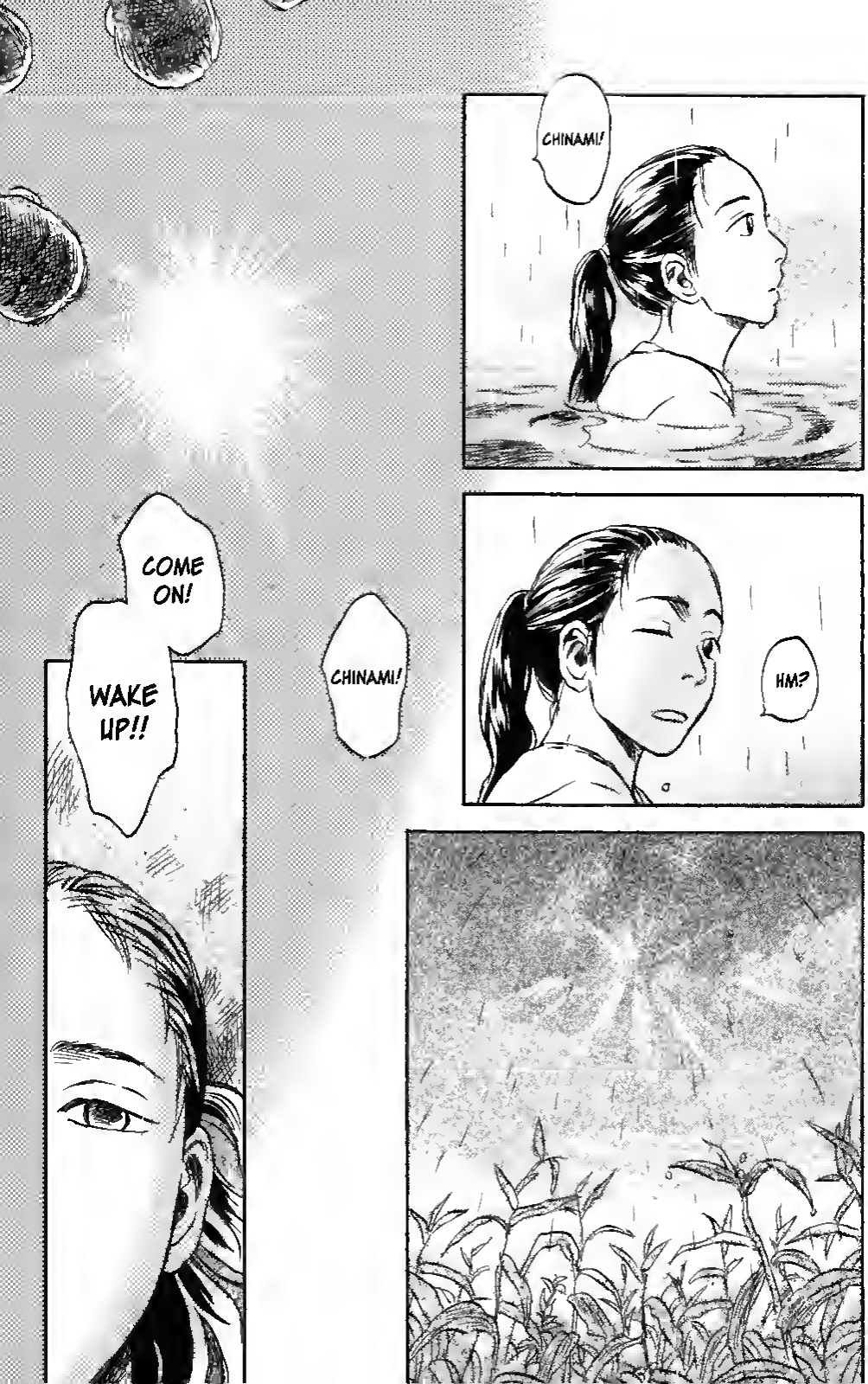

Cold water...
Somewhere...
Flowing...
Water...
There's...



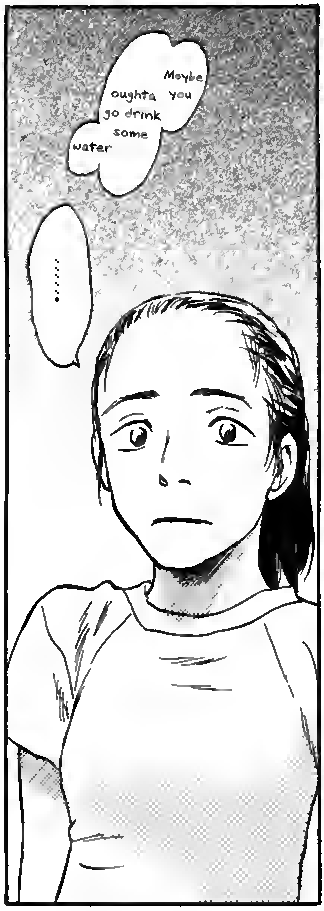
WATER ...
……
ポイ
ポイ
ザー
ハシャ
ハシャ
ハシャ

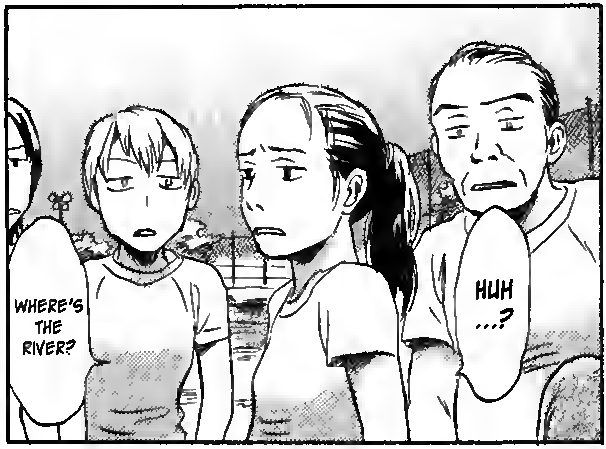
Gulp
Gulp
AHHH
...
IT TASTES SO GOOD!

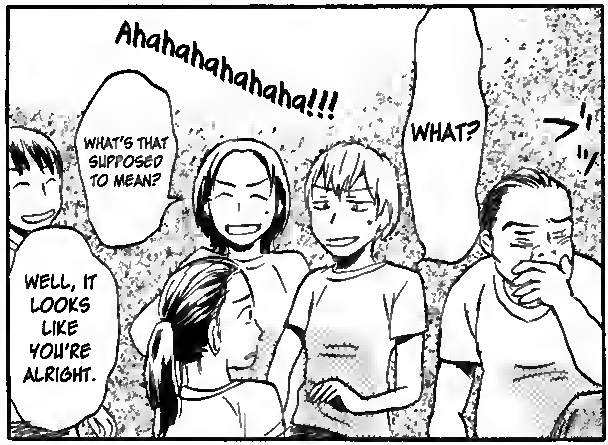
AHH...
IT FEELS SO NICE...


CHINAMI!
HM?
CHINAMI!
COME ON!
WAKE UP!!

KAWA-
MURA!!
ARE YOU
ALRIGHT!?
CHINAMI!


Maybe you
oughta go drink
some water
.....

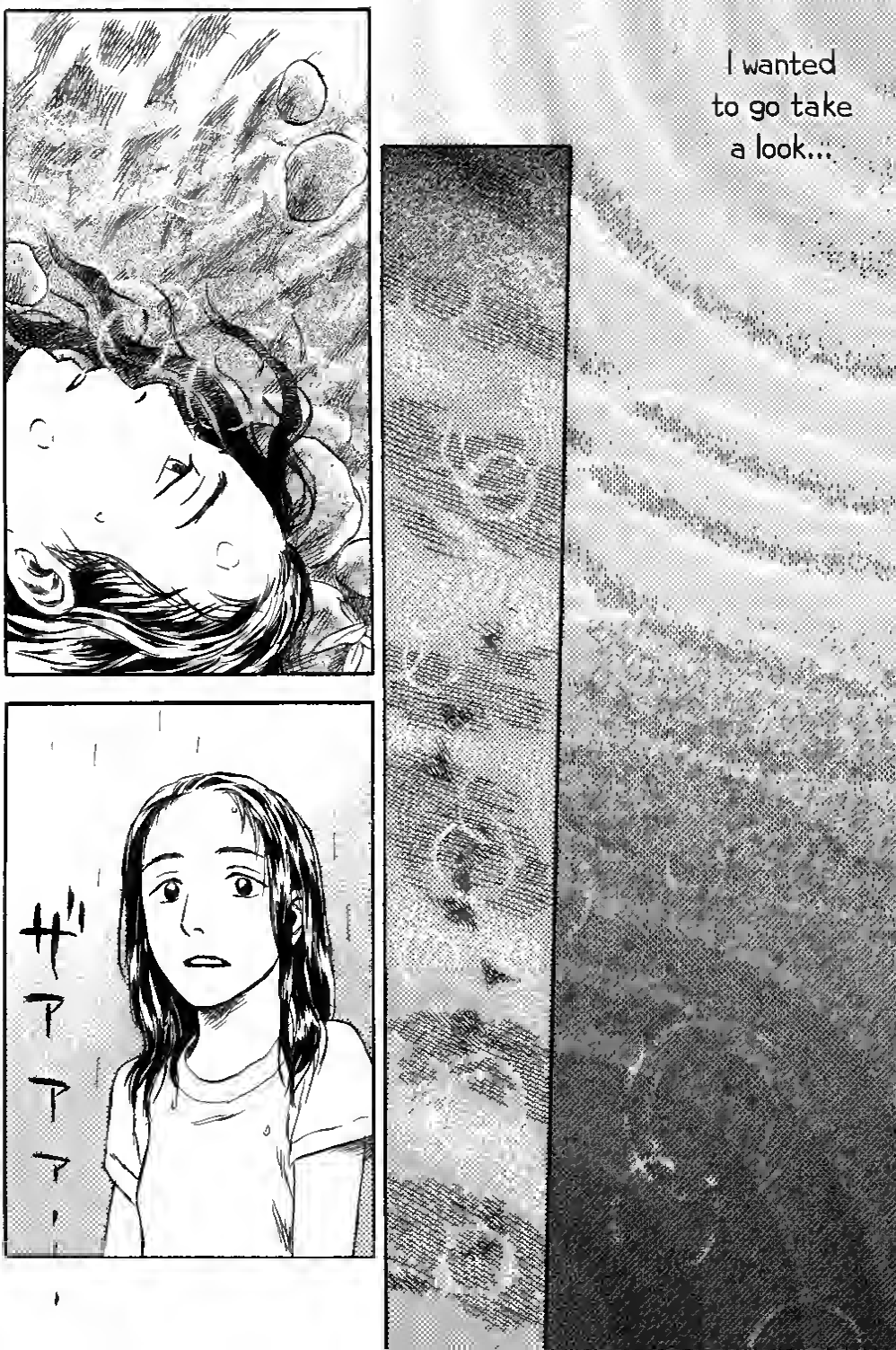

WHERE'S
THE
RIVER?
HUH
...?


Ahahahahahaha!!!
WHAT?
WHAT'S THAT
SUPPOSED
TO MEAN?
WELL, IT
LOOKS
LIKE
YOU'RE
ALRIGHT.

BUT IT DID FEEL REALLY REFRESHING...
I GUESS IT WAS JUST A DREAM...
...HUH,

CHINAMI,
ガラッ
YOU'RE USING TOO MUCH WATER.
AT THIS RATE, WE MIGHT EVEN HAVE A WATER OUTAGE...
HMM?
NOT REALLY.
WHAT'S WRONG?
ARE YOU FEELING SICK?
...WELL, ALRIGHT THEN.
IF YOU'RE FEELING TIRED, GO UPSTAIRS AND GET SOME REST.

IT FEELS LIKE
チャプ
THERE WAS A VILLAGE FROM ACROSS THE RIVER.
I'M IN THAT DREAM AGAIN.
SOME-HOW...


I wanted
to go take
a look...
ザアアアー

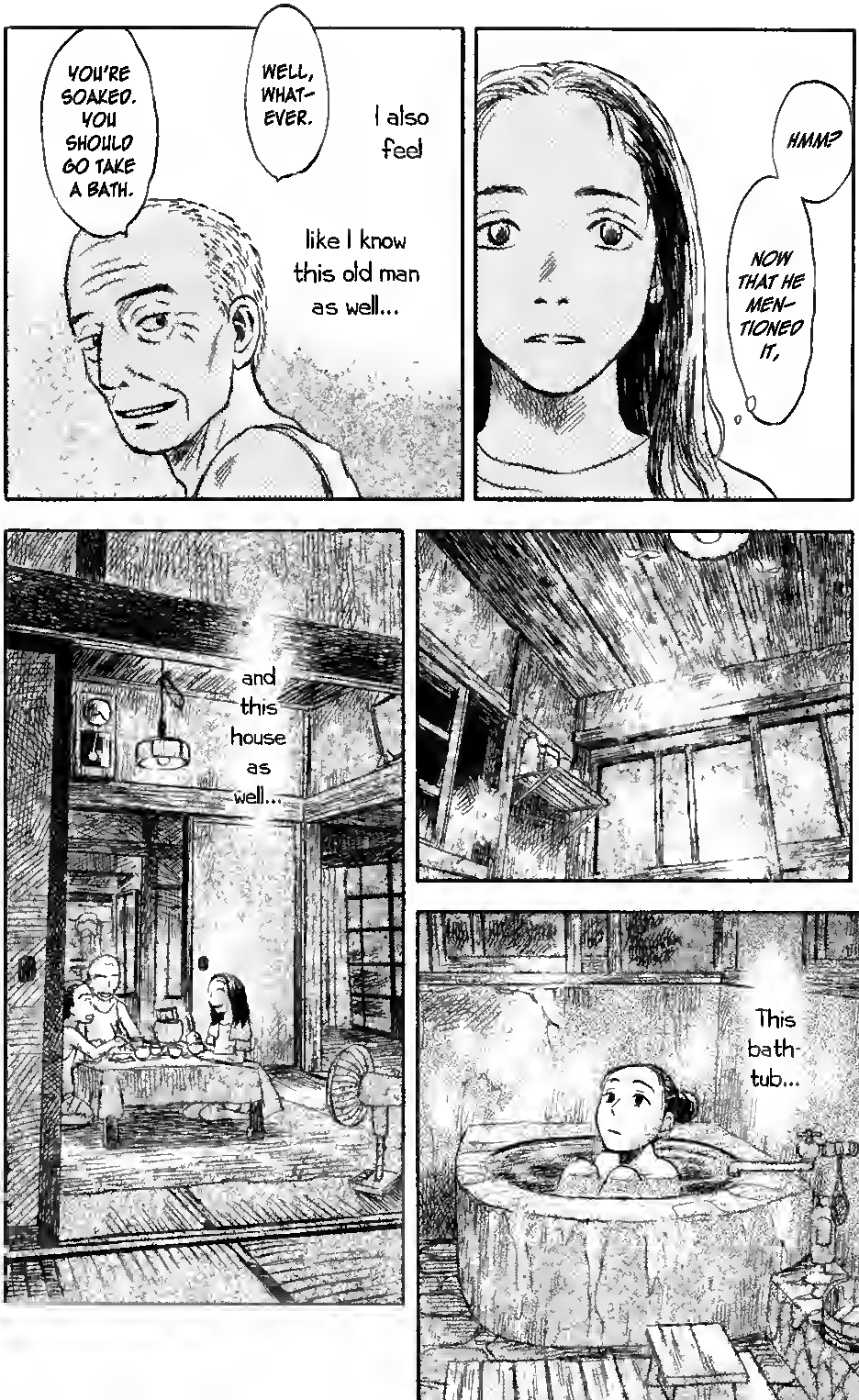
I'M REALLY HERE AGAIN.
NO ONE'S HERE...

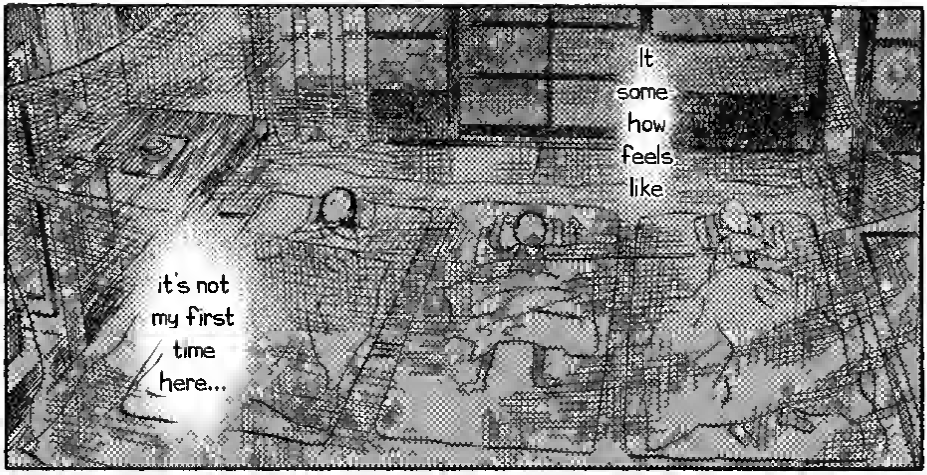
ドオオオオオ
ドオオオオ
WHOA,
IT'S SO PRETTY.
AND IT FEELS SO REFRESHING.

AGHHH!
UMM...
WELL,
I'M, UHH... SOMEONE NOT QUITE FROM HERE...
.....
YOU SUR-PRISED ME...
WHO'RE YOU?

UMM...
WELL,
YOU BETTER GO BACK HOME SOON BEFORE THE SUN SETS.
DO YOU... NOT KNOW HOW TO FIND YOUR WAY BACK HOME?
.....
DAAAADD!

MNN...
AND WHO IS THAT?
OHH,
WEL-COME BACK.
I THINK SHE LOST HER WAY.
HELLO, SIR...
THIS IS REALLY HIS DAD?
NOT HIS GRANDPA INSTEAD?
I...
I FEEL LIKE I'VE MET HER SOMEPLACE BEFORE.
MAYBE SHE'S THE DAUGHTER OF SOME DISTANT RELATIVE OF OURS?

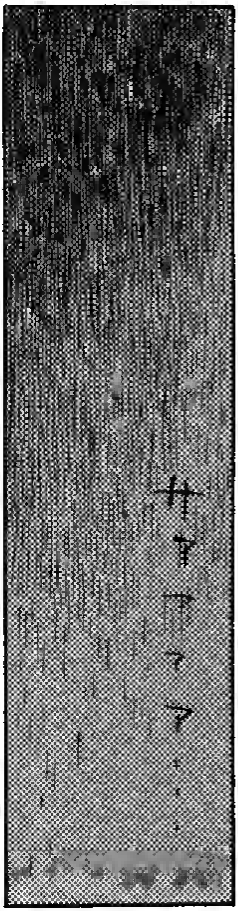

YOU'RE SOAKED. YOU SHOULD GO TAKE A BATH.
WELL, WHATEVER.
I also feel like I know this old man as well...
HMM?
NOW THAT HE MENTIONED IT,
and this house as well...
This bathtub...

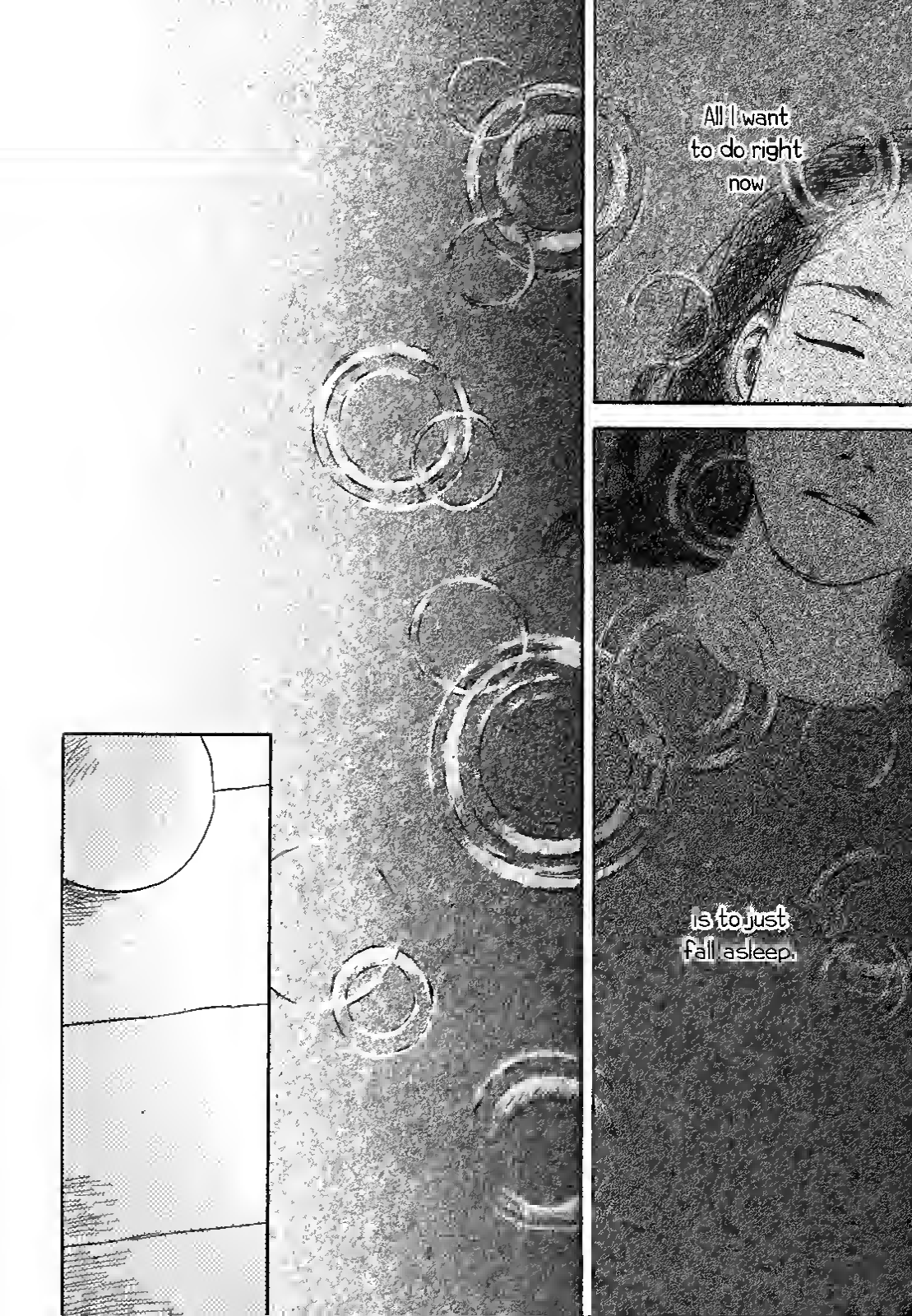

It some how feels like
it's not my first time here...

The raindrops falling
sounds so soothing...

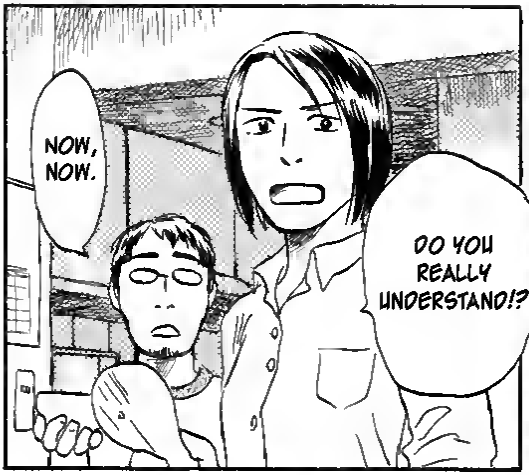
Oh, whatever.

I'll think about it tomorrow.



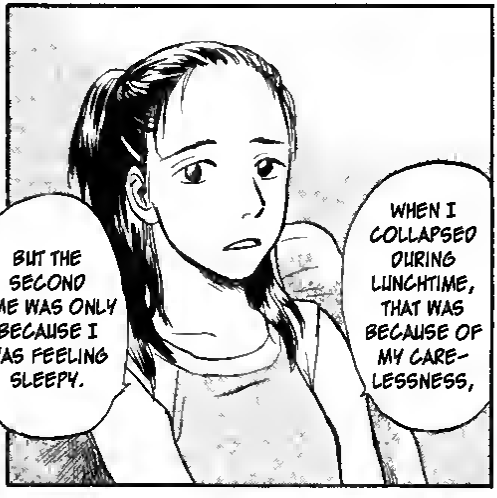

All I want
to do right
now
is to just
fall asleep.

HUH...?
MOM...
YOU HAD ME SO SHOCKED...
JEEZ!
CHINAMI!
I GOT A CALL FROM THE TEACHER
SAYING THAT YOU COLLAPSED DURING NOON YESTERDAY.
IF YOU'RE NOT FEELING WELL, JUST TELL ME.
AND TAKE PROPER CARE OF YOUR OWN HEALTH!


NOW, NOW.
DO YOU REALLY UNDERSTAND!?

YEAH, YEAH, I UNDER-STAND YOU.
BECAUSE OTHERS WON'T ALWAYS BE THERE TO TAKE CARE OF YOU.

IT WAS NOTHING.

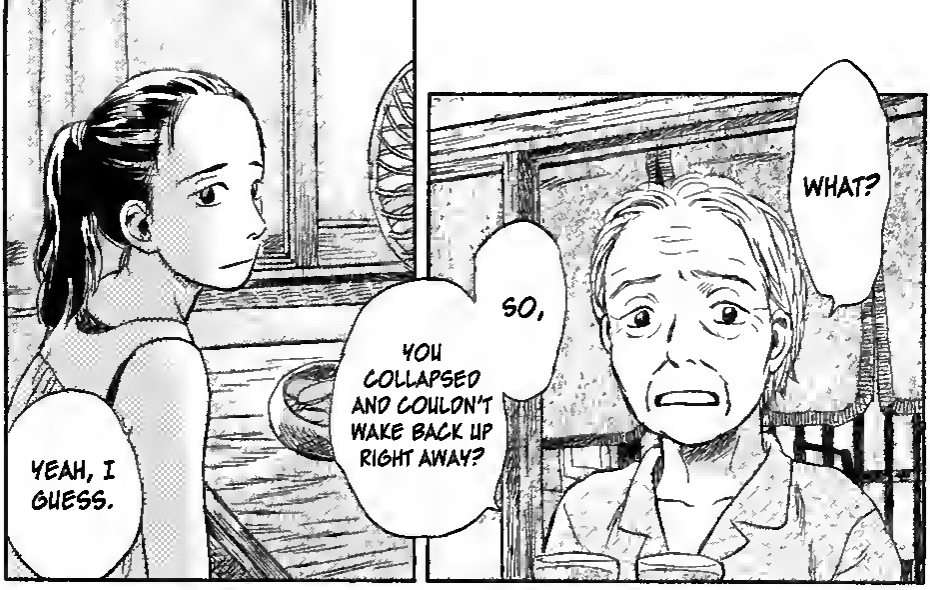

BUT THE SECOND TIME WAS ONLY BECAUSE I WAS FEELING SLEEPY.
WHEN I COLLAPSED DURING LUNCHTIME, THAT WAS BECAUSE OF MY CARE-LESSNESS,

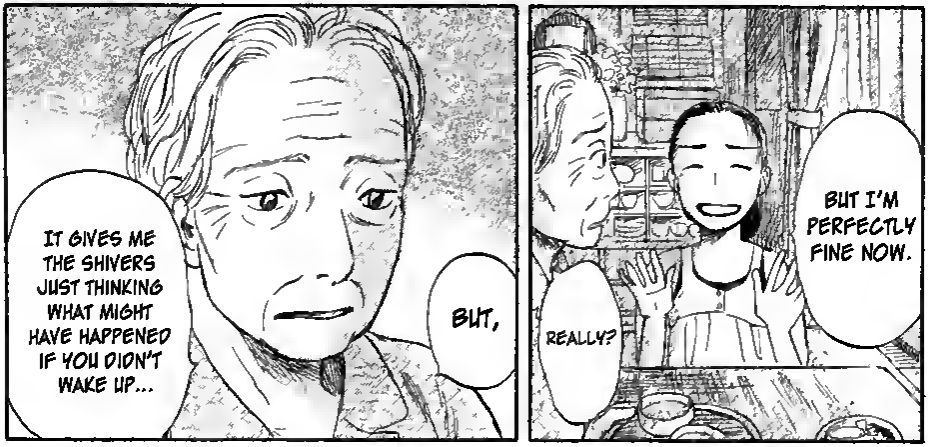
AND I SLEPT OVER AT THIS OLD HOUSE BY THE RIVER...
THERE WAS THIS BEAUTIFUL RIVER,
OH. SPEAKING OF WHICH, I JUST HAD THE MOST INTERESTING DREAM.

AND THERE WAS THIS BOY AND HIS DAD,
...IT WAS REALLY FUN.
YOU MEAN... LIKE THE SANZU RIVER?
...A RIVER?
*River that one must cross on the way to the afterlife in Buddhism
JUST A NORMAL RIVER.
NO, NOT LIKE THAT.
IN ANY CASE,
YOU BETTER NOT CAUSE ANY MORE TROUBLE STARTING TOMORROW.
SOUNDS LIKE YOU JUST CAUSED THEM UNNECCESSARY TROUBLE.
...I WANT TO SEE THEM AGAIN...

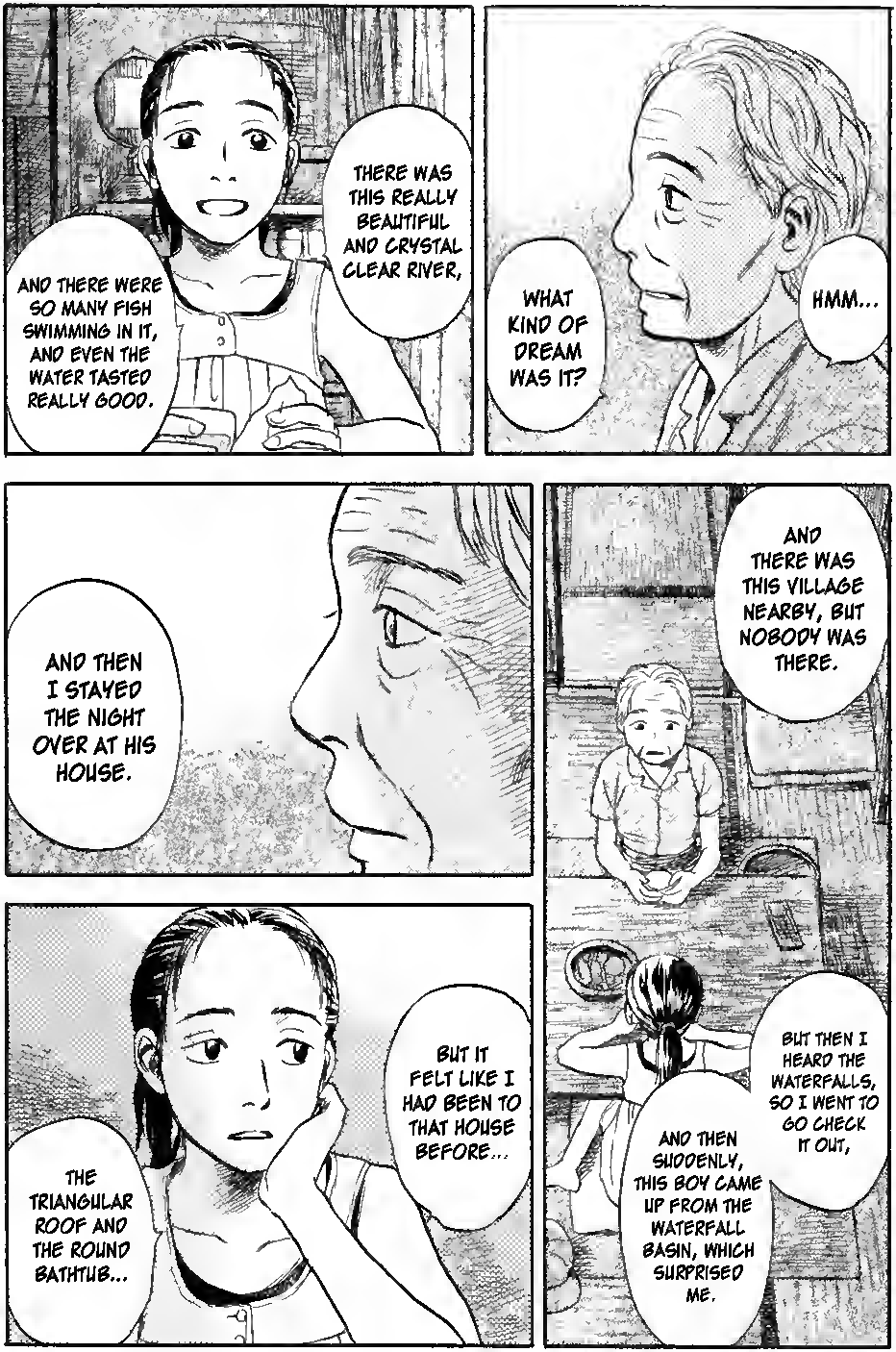
THERE'S NOTHING TO DO...
AH,
CAN I AT LEAST GO OVER TO GRANDMA'S HOUSE?
OKAY...
BUT JUST BE CAREFUL.
ミーイ
ミーイ

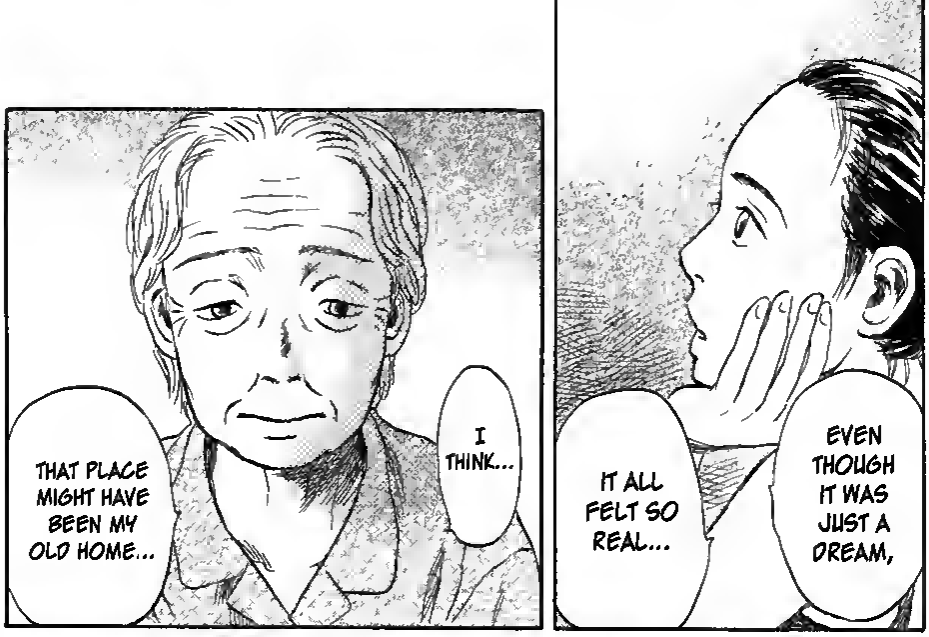
AHH...
GRAND-MA!
...NO-MA!
OH, HELLO DEAR.
COME ON IN.


WHAT?
SO,
YOU COLLAPSED AND COULDN'T WAKE BACK UP RIGHT AWAY?
YEAH, I GUESS.

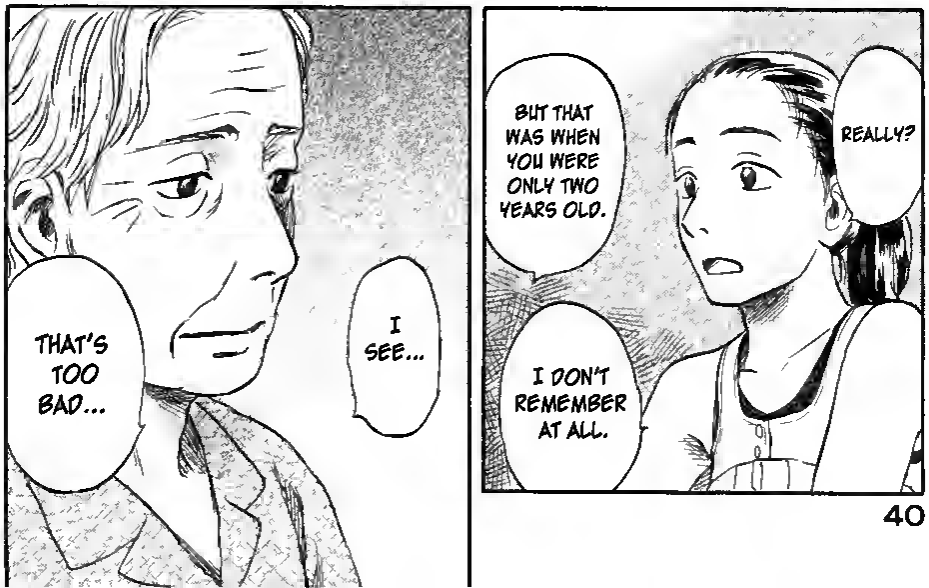

IT GIVES ME THE SHIVERS JUST THINKING WHAT MIGHT HAVE HAPPENED IF YOU DIDN'T WAKE UP...
BUT,
REALLY?
BUT I'M PERFECTLY FINE NOW.

あはは
SHE THOUGHT
THAT I SAW THE SANZU RIVER, HAHA.
WHEN I TOLD HER ABOUT THE RIVER I SAW IN MY DREAM,
YOU'RE JUST LIKE MY MOM.

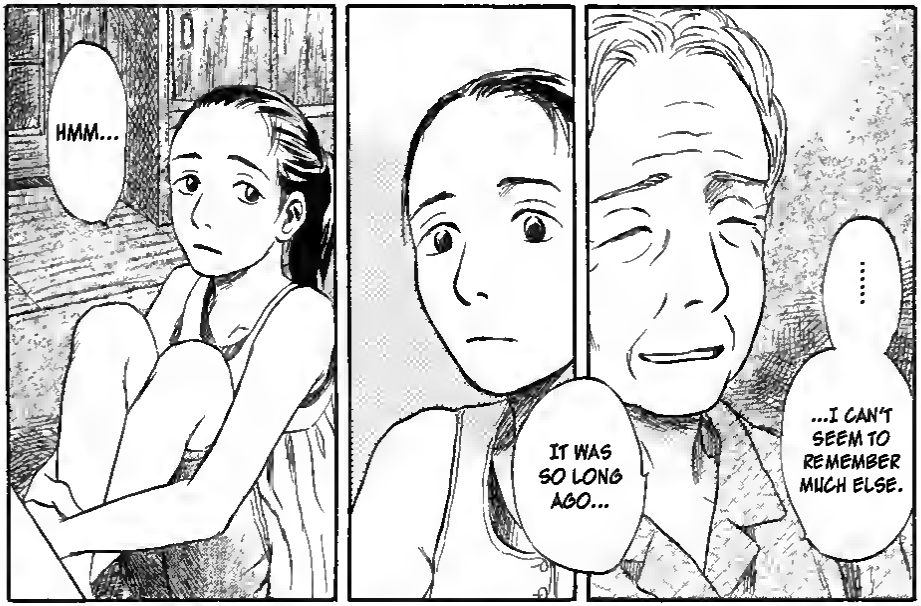

THERE WAS THIS REALLY BEAUTIFUL AND CRYSTAL CLEAR RIVER,
AND THERE WERE SO MANY FISH SWIMMING IN IT, AND EVEN THE WATER TASTED REALLY GOOD.
HMM...
WHAT KIND OF DREAM WAS IT?
AND THEN I STAYED THE NIGHT OVER AT HIS HOUSE.
AND THERE WAS THIS VILLAGE NEARBY, BUT NOBODY WAS THERE.
BUT THEN I HEARD THE WATERFALLS, SO I WENT TO GO CHECK IT OUT,
AND THEN SUDDENLY, THIS BOY CAME UP FROM THE WATERFALL BASIN, WHICH SURPRISED ME.
BUT IT FELT LIKE I HAD BEEN TO THAT HOUSE BEFORE...
THE TRIANGULAR ROOF AND THE ROUND BATHTUB...

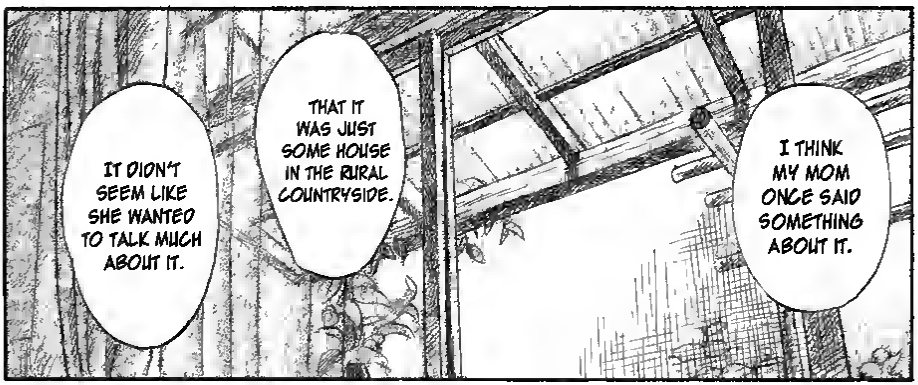

EVEN THOUGH IT WAS JUST A DREAM,
IT ALL FELT SO REAL...
I THINK...
THAT PLACE MIGHT HAVE BEEN MY OLD HOME...

WHAT?
YOU VISITED IT JUST ONCE BEFORE.

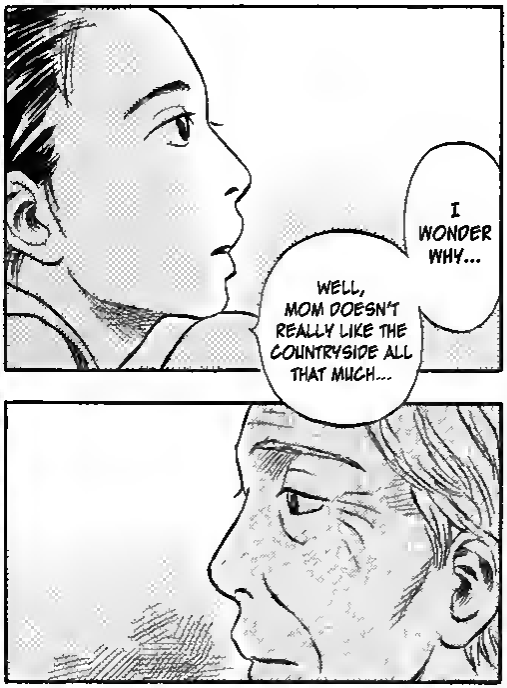

REALLY?
BUT THAT WAS WHEN YOU WERE ONLY TWO YEARS OLD.
I DON'T REMEMBER AT ALL.
I SEE...
THAT'S TOO BAD...

THE WATER AND AIR WERE VERY CLEAN AND REFRESH-ING...
NICE AS IN HOW?
IT WAS A VERY NICE PLACE.
WELL, WHAT KIND OF PLACE WAS IT?


HMM...
IT WAS SO LONG AGO...
.....
...I CAN'T SEEM TO REMEMBER MUCH ELSE.


IT DIDN'T SEEM LIKE SHE WANTED TO TALK MUCH ABOUT IT.
THAT IT WAS JUST SOME HOUSE IN THE RURAL COUNTRYSIDE.
I THINK MY MOM ONCE SAID SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

...I'M SURE
SHE'LL TELL YOU MORE ABOUT IT SOMEDAY...

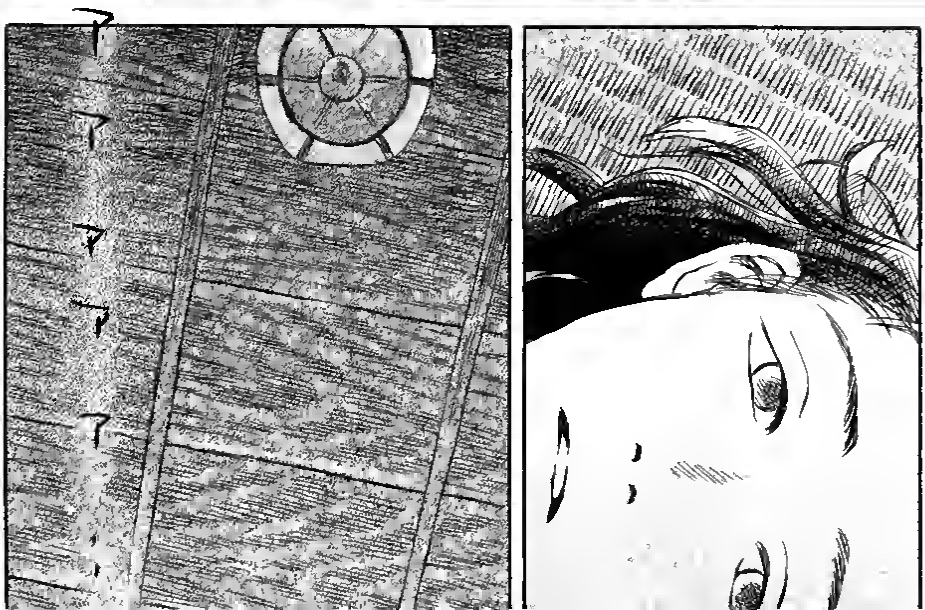

I WONDER WHY...
WELL, MOM DOESN'T REALLY LIKE THE COUNTRYSIDE ALL THAT MUCH...

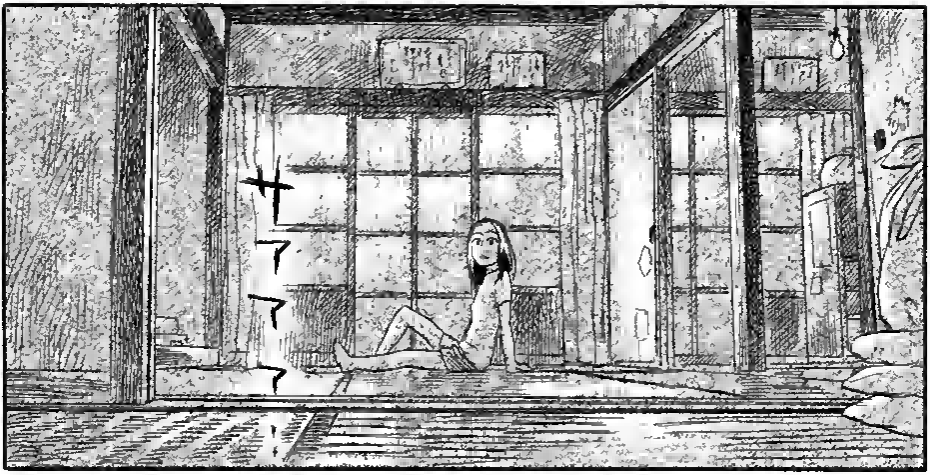

SUN
0
0
10
0

WHAT,
NO RAIN NEXT WEEK TOO?
GOD, I WISH I COULD TAKE A BATH RIGHT NOW...

MNN...
IF YOU'RE GOING TO SLEEP, THEN GO TO YOUR ROOM.
CHINAMI,
JEEZ...
AH...
I FEEL COMPLETELY DRIED UP...

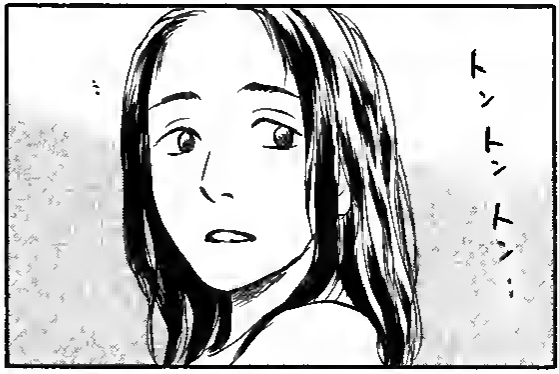
Thank god.
Now, I can finally take a swim...
Ah...
It's finally raining ...
The sound of raindrops...

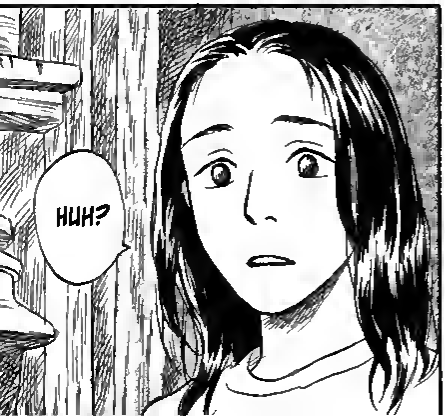




UMM...
MISTER?
I'M...

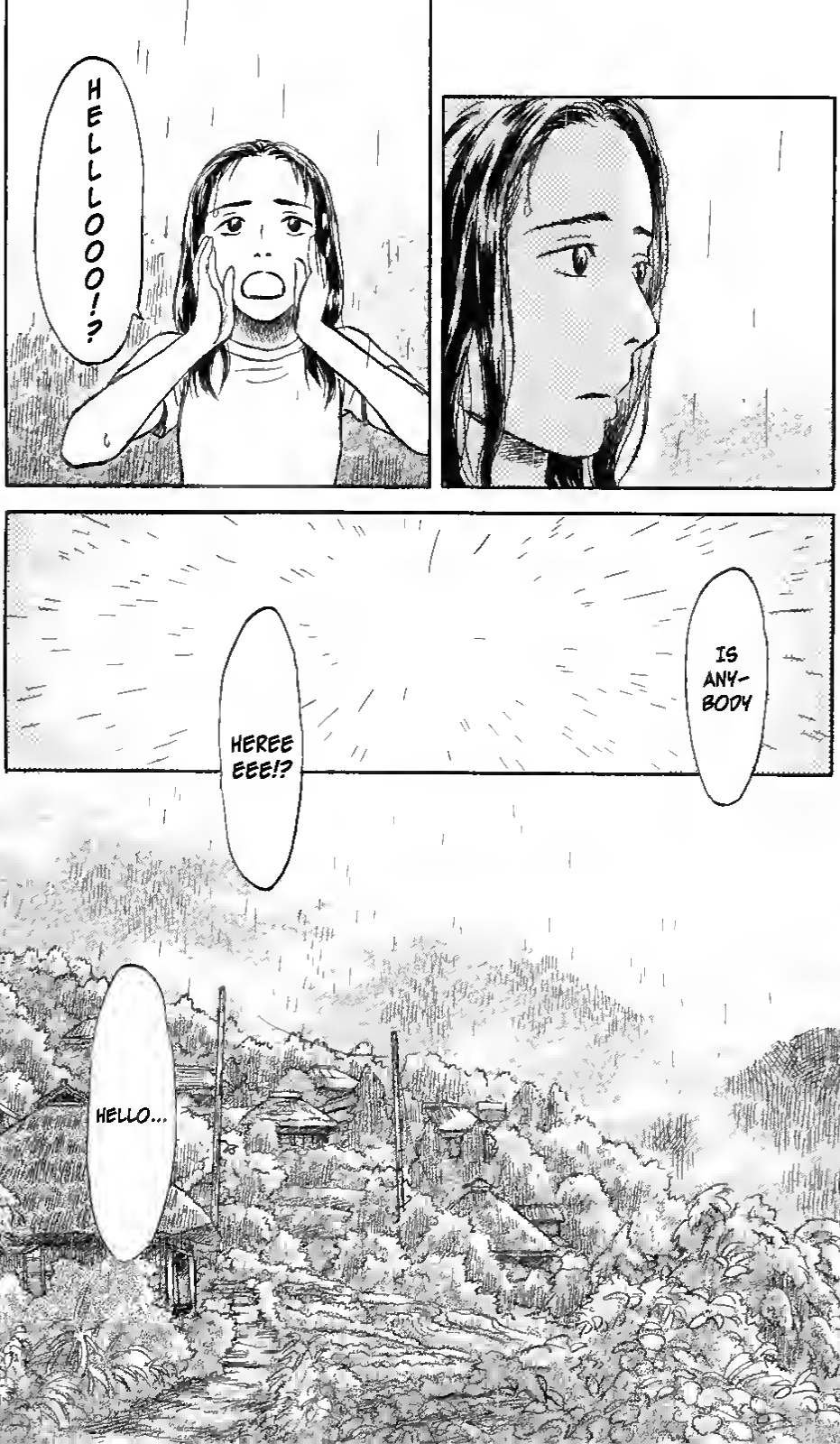
.....
I'M HERE AGAIN?


トントントン...


HUH?

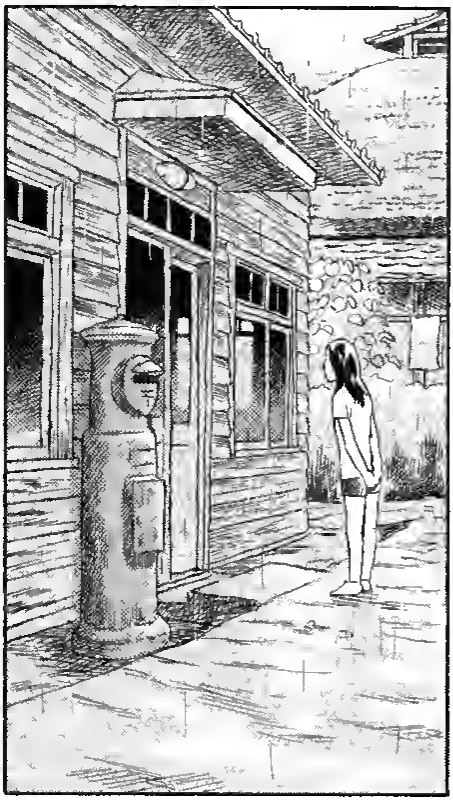
UMM...
IS ANYONE HOME?
I THOUGHT I JUST HEARD SOMETHING...
HELLOOO?

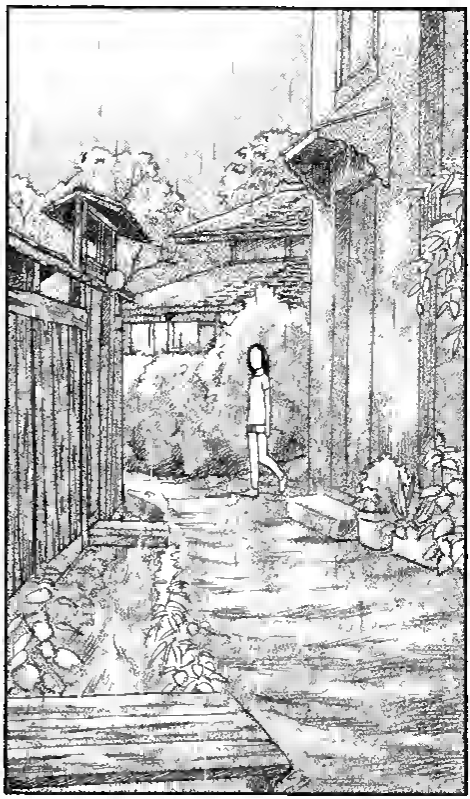
AAAAAAAA
ビクッ?


HELLLOOO!?
IS ANY-BODY
HEREE EEE!?
HELLO...

Chapter 01
End

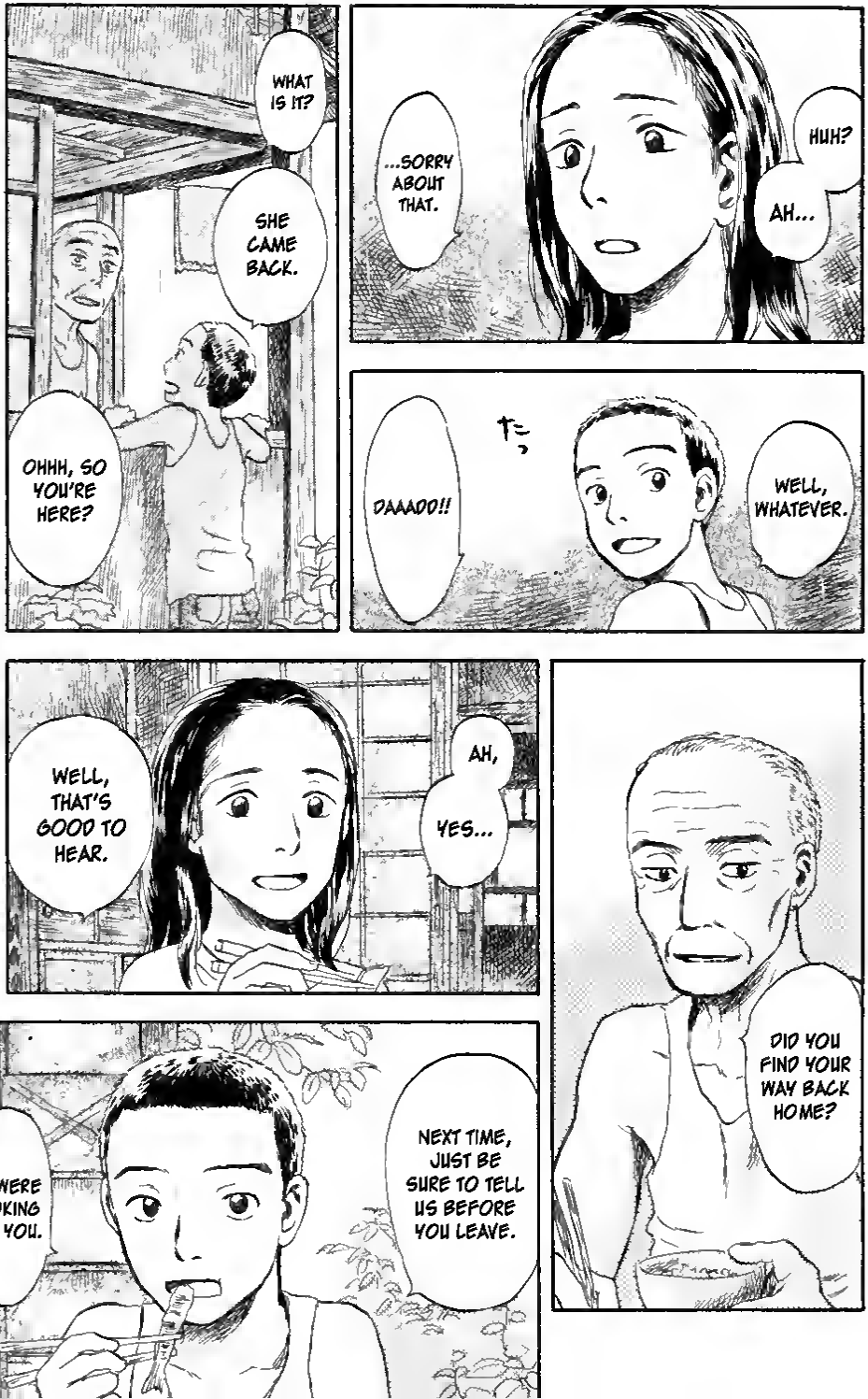
Chapter 02
By the
Riverside

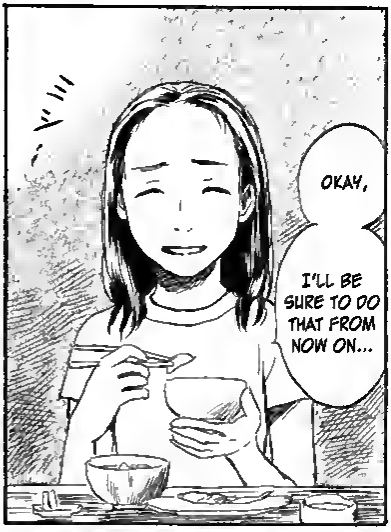


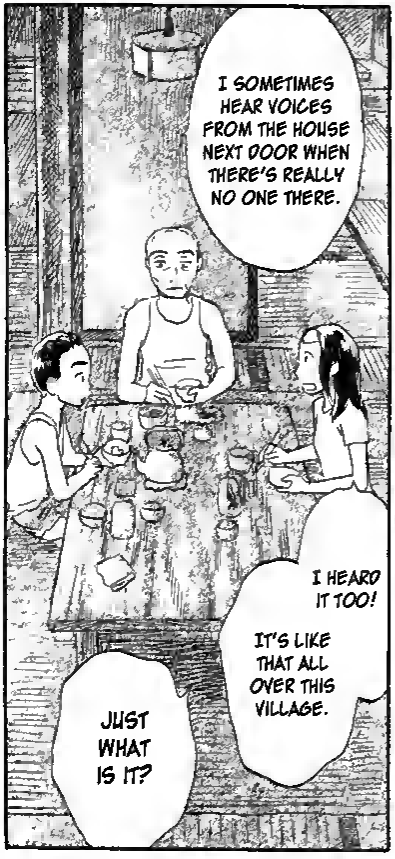


IT'S A SMALL VILLAGE,
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THERE SHOULD BE QUITE A BIT OF PEOPLE LIVING HERE...
SO THEN,
WHERE IS EVERYONE?

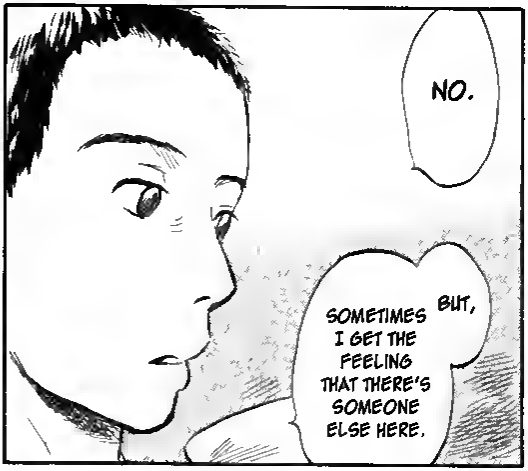
AH,
IT'S YOU!
BUT WHERE WERE YOU?
WHEN WE WOKE UP THIS MORNING, YOU JUST DISAPPEARED.
OH, I'M SO GLAD TO SEE YOU HERE. I THOUGHT EVERYONE HAD LEFT OR SOMETHING.
WHERE WERE YOU?
AT THE RIVER.


WHAT IS IT?
SHE CAME BACK.
OHHH, SO YOU'RE HERE?
HUH?
AH...
...SORRY ABOUT THAT.
たっ
DAAADO!!
WELL, WHATEVER.
AH, YES...
WELL, THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR.
DID YOU FIND YOUR WAY BACK HOME?
WE WERE LOOKING FOR YOU.
NEXT TIME, JUST BE SURE TO TELL US BEFORE YOU LEAVE.


OKAY,
I'LL BE SURE TO DO THAT FROM NOW ON...

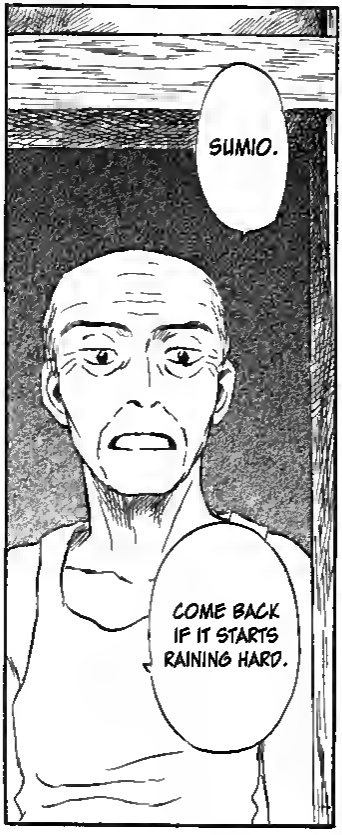

I SOMETIMES HEAR VOICES FROM THE HOUSE NEXT DOOR WHEN THERE'S REALLY NO ONE THERE.
I HEARD IT TOO!
IT'S LIKE THAT ALL OVER THIS VILLAGE.
JUST WHAT IS IT?

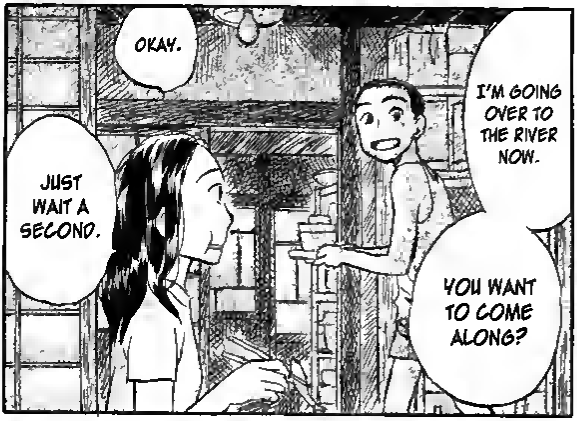
HEY,
IS THERE SOMEONE ELSE LIVING IN THIS HOUSE?


NO.
BUT, SOMETIMES I GET THE FEELING THAT THERE'S SOMEONE ELSE HERE.

DON'T WORRY,
THEY DON'T REALLY DO ANYTHING, SO IT'S REALLY NOTHING.
THANKS FOR THE MEAL.

WHAT!?
PROBABLY GHOSTS.

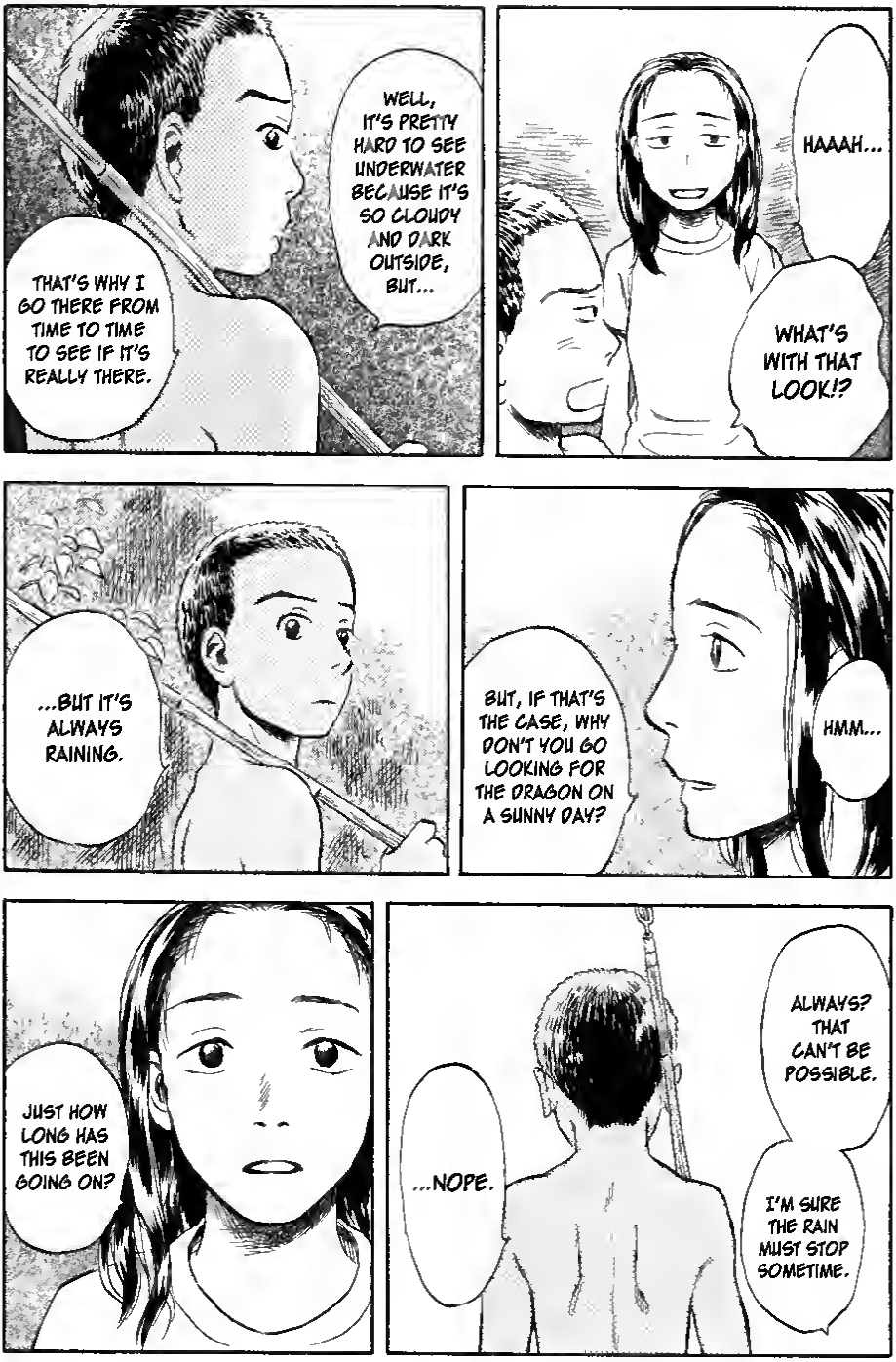

SUMIO.
COME BACK IF IT STARTS RAINING HARD.


OKAY.
I'M GOING OVER TO THE RIVER NOW.
JUST WAIT A SECOND.
YOU WANT TO COME ALONG?

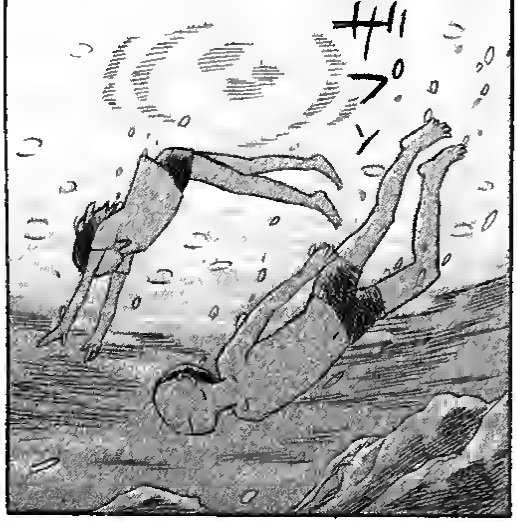
ALL RIGHT, I'LL BE RIGHT THERE.
ARE YOU READY YET?

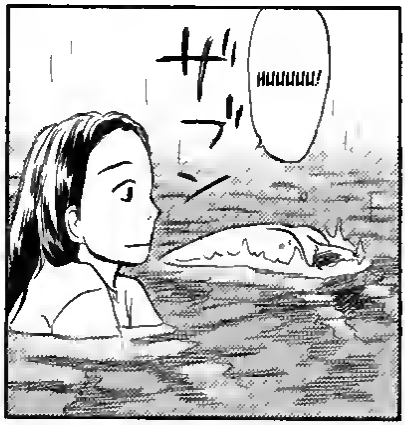
*She's surprised because he's not addressing her with the honorific "-san."

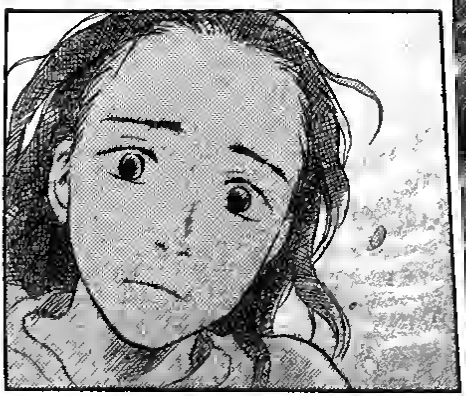
AH,
CAN YOU KEEP THE FACT THAT WE MET AT THE WATER-FALL A SECRET FROM MY DAD?
WHY?
I'M NOT ALLOWED TO PLAY THERE.
BECAUSE THERE'S A SHRINE FOR THE DRAGON THERE,
PLUS THE WATER'S PRETTY DEEP TOO.
...BUT,
I SAW SOMETHING AMAZING WHEN I WAS PLAYING THERE.
IT WAS DEFI-NITELY,
A REAL DRAGON...!


WELL, IT'S PRETTY HARD TO SEE UNDERWATER BECAUSE IT'S SO CLOUDY AND DARK OUTSIDE, BUT...
THAT'S WHY I GO THERE FROM TIME TO TIME TO SEE IF IT'S REALLY THERE.
HAAAH...
WHAT'S WITH THAT LOOK!?
...BUT IT'S ALWAYS RAINING.
BUT, IF THAT'S THE CASE, WHY DON'T YOU GO LOOKING FOR THE DRAGON ON A SUNNY DAY?
HMM...
JUST HOW LONG HAS THIS BEEN GOING ON?
...NOPE.
I'M SURE THE RAIN MUST STOP SOMETIME.
ALWAYS? THAT CAN'T BE POSSIBLE.

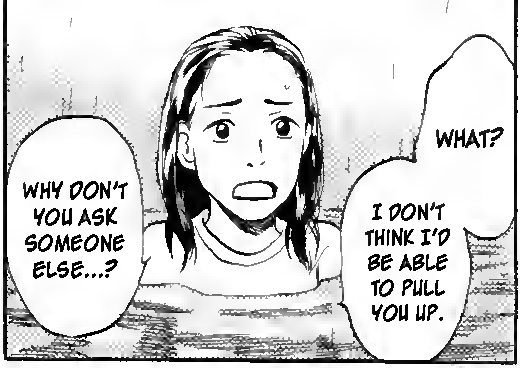
LONG ENOUGH TO FORGET JUST HOW LONG IT'S BEEN GOING ON FOR.
SO A REALLY, REALLY LONG TIME.
.....
IT REALLY DOES SEEM LIKE THERE MIGHT BE SOMETHING...
WHOA!
IT'S REALLY DEEP. I CAN'T EVEN SEE THE BOTTOM.
THERE'S A CAVE DEEP DOWN BELOW.
THAT'S WHERE I SAW IT BEFORE.

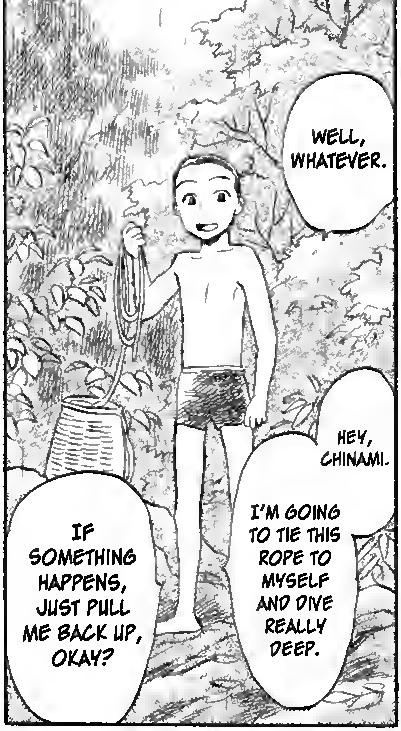


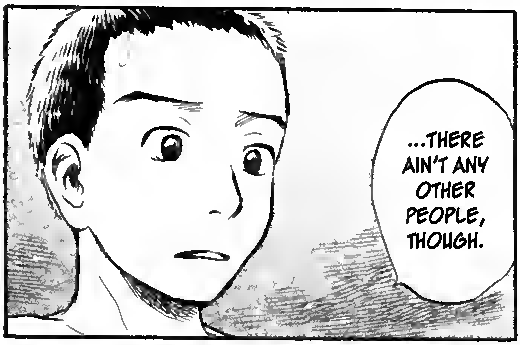

HUUUUU!

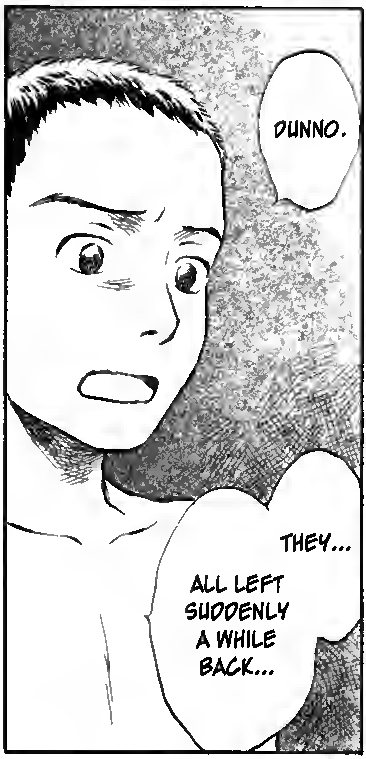


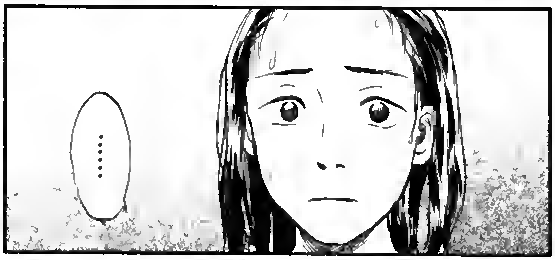
AHH...
THIS FEELS SO NICE...
REALLY?
THERE'S NO RAIN AT ALL AT MY PLACE.
THERE'S NOTHING THERE.
IT'S FURTHER INSIDE.
THE PEOPLE AT YOUR PLACE CAN ACTUALLY PREDICT THAT?
YEAH,
IT MEANS HOW MUCH IT WILL RAIN.
IT'S NOTHING IMPRESSIVE...
THE WEATHER FORECAST PREDICTED ZERO MILLIMETERS OF RAINFALL AND IT'S BEEN LIKE THAT FOR PRETTY LONG NOW.
PREDICTED RAINFALL?
POOL? WHAT'S THAT?
.....
EVEN THE POOL WAS DRAINED.
IN ANY CASE, BECAUSE OF THE WATER SHORT-AGE,


WHY DON'T YOU ASK SOMEONE ELSE...?
WHAT?
I DON'T THINK I'D BE ABLE TO PULL YOU UP.


WELL, WHATEVER.
HEY, CHINAMI.
I'M GOING TO TIE THIS ROPE TO MYSELF AND DIVE REALLY DEEP.
IF SOMETHING HAPPENS, JUST PULL ME BACK UP, OKAY?


...THERE AIN'T ANY OTHER PEOPLE, THOUGH.


DUNNO.
THEY... ALL LEFT SUDDENLY A WHILE BACK...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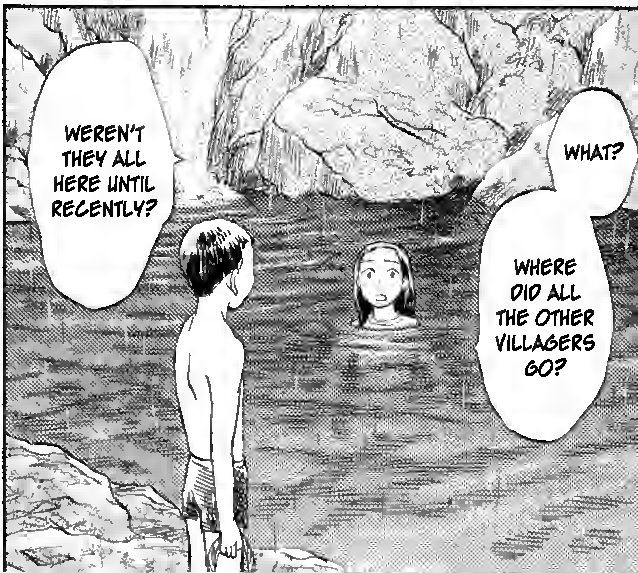
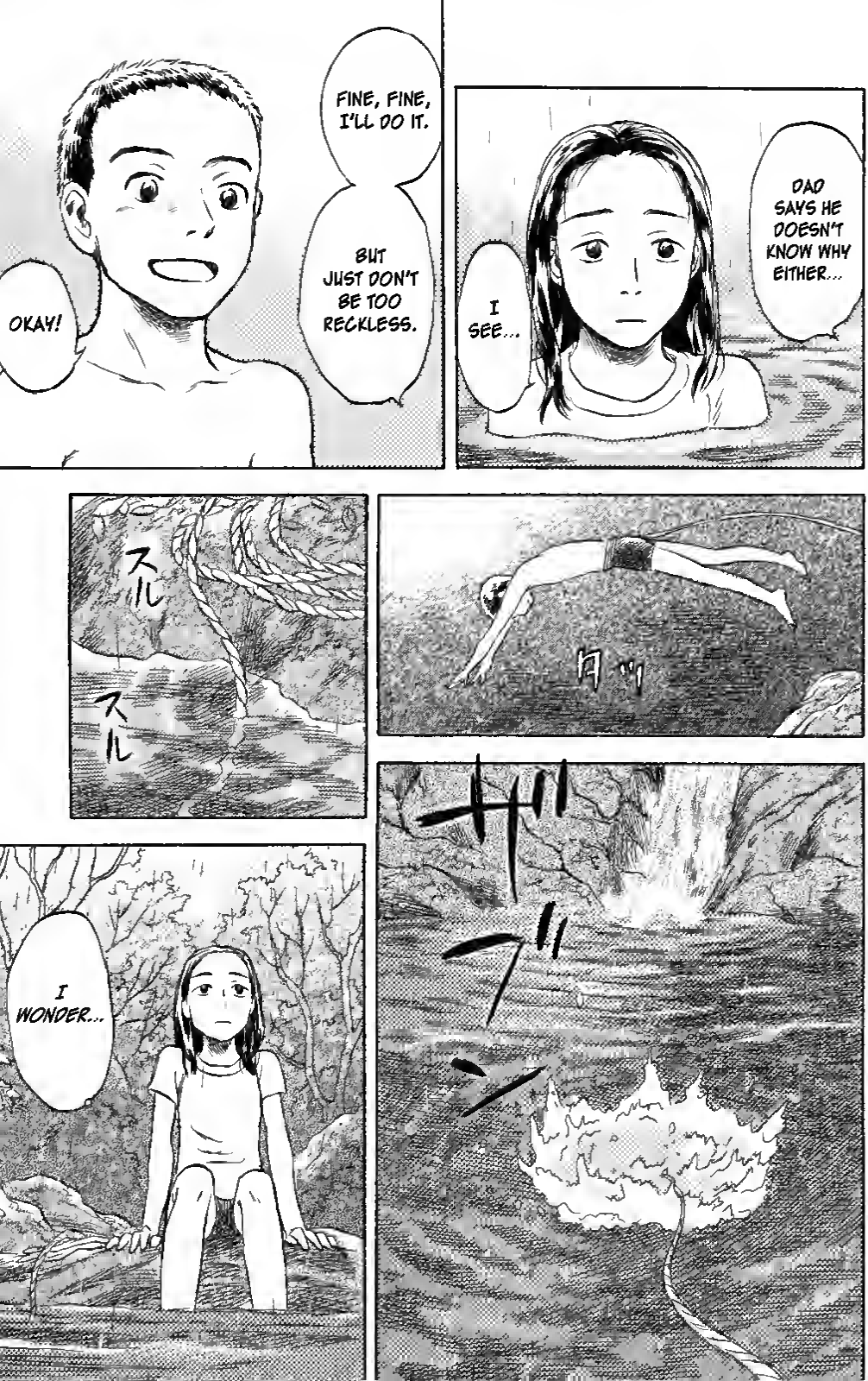
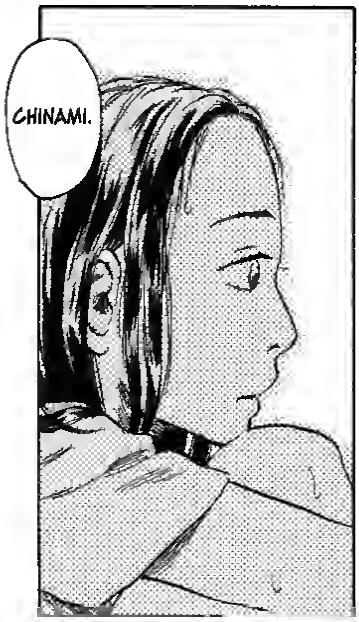
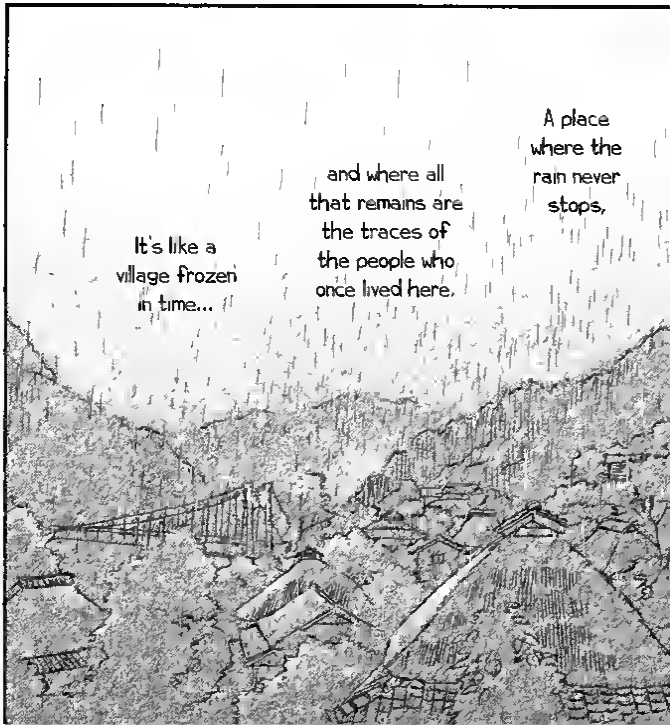

WEREN'T THEY ALL HERE UNTIL RECENTLY?
WHAT?
WHERE DID ALL THE OTHER VILLAGERS GO?

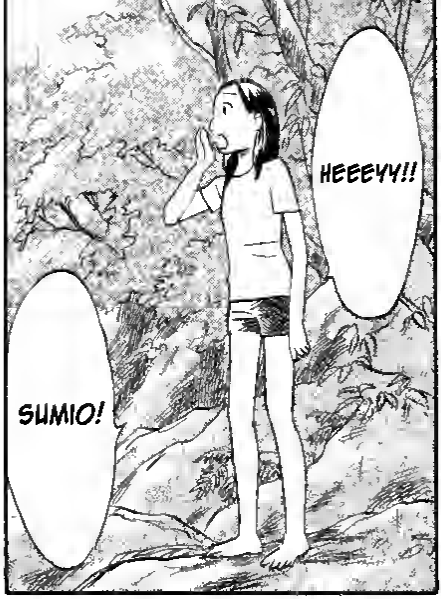

FINE, FINE, I'LL DO IT.
BUT JUST DON'T BE TOO RECKLESS.
OKAY!
DAD SAYS HE DOESN'T KNOW WHY EITHER...
I SEE...
スル
スル
I WONDER...

I DON'T THINK THIS IS JUST A DREAM.
IT SEEMS LIKE TIME PASSES IN THIS WORLD EVEN WHEN I'M NOT HERE,
AND SUMIO AND HIS DAD CONTINUE LIVING HERE AS THEY ALWAYS DID.

JUST WHERE
IS THIS PLACE?


CHINAMI.

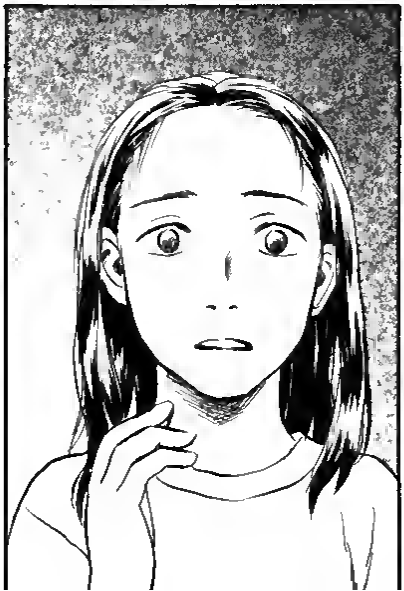

A place where the rain never stops,
and where all that remains are the traces of the people who once lived here.
It's like a village frozen in time...


HEEEYY!!
SUMIO!

...AH,
OH NO.
I FEEL LIKE I'M GOING TO WAKE UP SOON.

SUMIO ...?
HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO STAY UNDER-WATER?

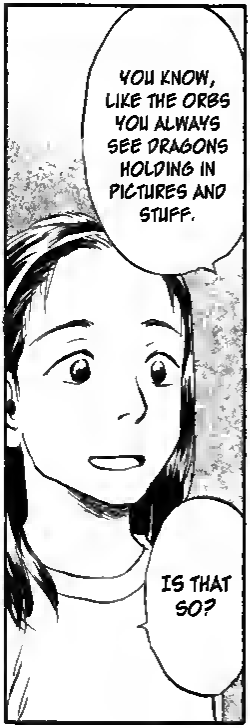
I HAVE TO GET GOING SOON...

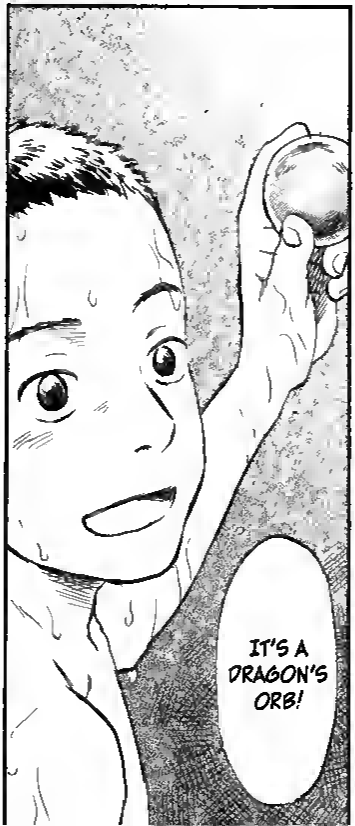


CHINAMI!!
LOOK!!

SUMI...

YOU HAD ME SCARED FOR A SECOND.
YOU CAN REALLY HOLD YOUR BREATH.

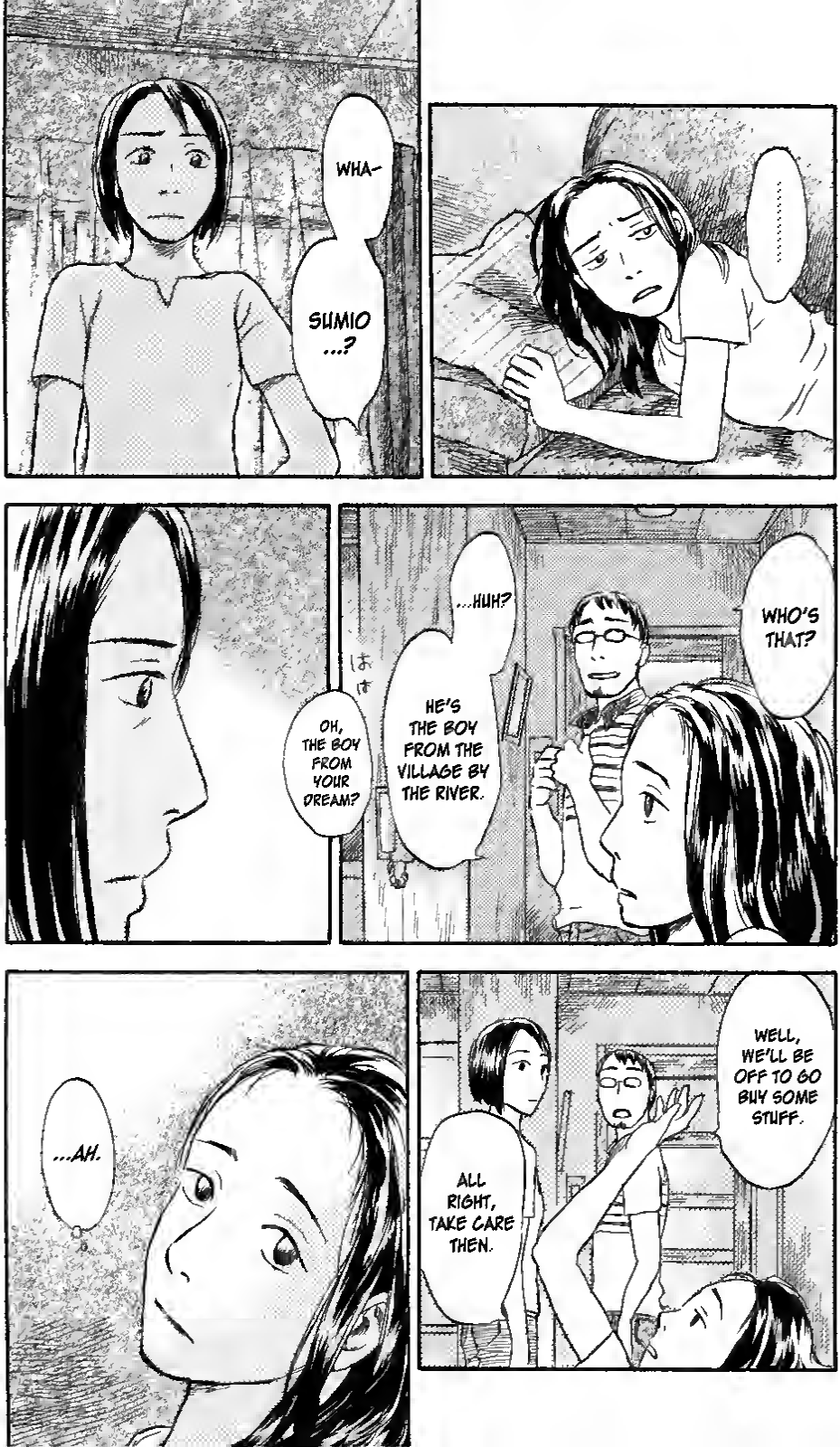

YOU KNOW, LIKE THE ORBS YOU ALWAYS SEE DRAGONS HOLDING IN PICTURES AND STUFF.
IS THAT SO?


IT'S A DRAGON'S ORB!

AHHH!
SO PRETTY!
IS IT A CRYSTAL?

HEY, CAN I HAVE THIS?
BUT IT'S REALLY PRETTY AND CRYSTAL CLEAR.
IS THAT WHAT IT CAN DO?
Let's collect them!
OH, WILL IT GRANT WISHES?
OKAY FINE, LET'S JUST SAY IT BELONGS TO BOTH OF US...
WHAT, THAT'S DIRTY!
.....
I'LL TELL ON YOUR DAD IF YOU DON'T.
HMPH,
のはし
NO. OF COURSE NOT.
I WISH,
THAT EVERYONE CAME BACK.
ALL RIGHT,
LET'S TRY WISHING TO IT.
HEY,
ハンハンハン

I WISH,
MOM WOULD STOP NAGGING AT ME...
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
MMM...
...CHI-NAMI,
Ah,
just a while more...
Just a little more time...
CHINAMI!!
WAKE UP!!


WHA-
SUMIO ...?
.....
OH, THE BOY FROM YOUR DREAM?
...HUH?
HE'S THE BOY FROM THE VILLAGE BY THE RIVER.
WHO'S THAT?
...AH.
ALL RIGHT, TAKE CARE THEN.
WELL, WE'LL BE OFF TO GO BUY SOME STUFF.

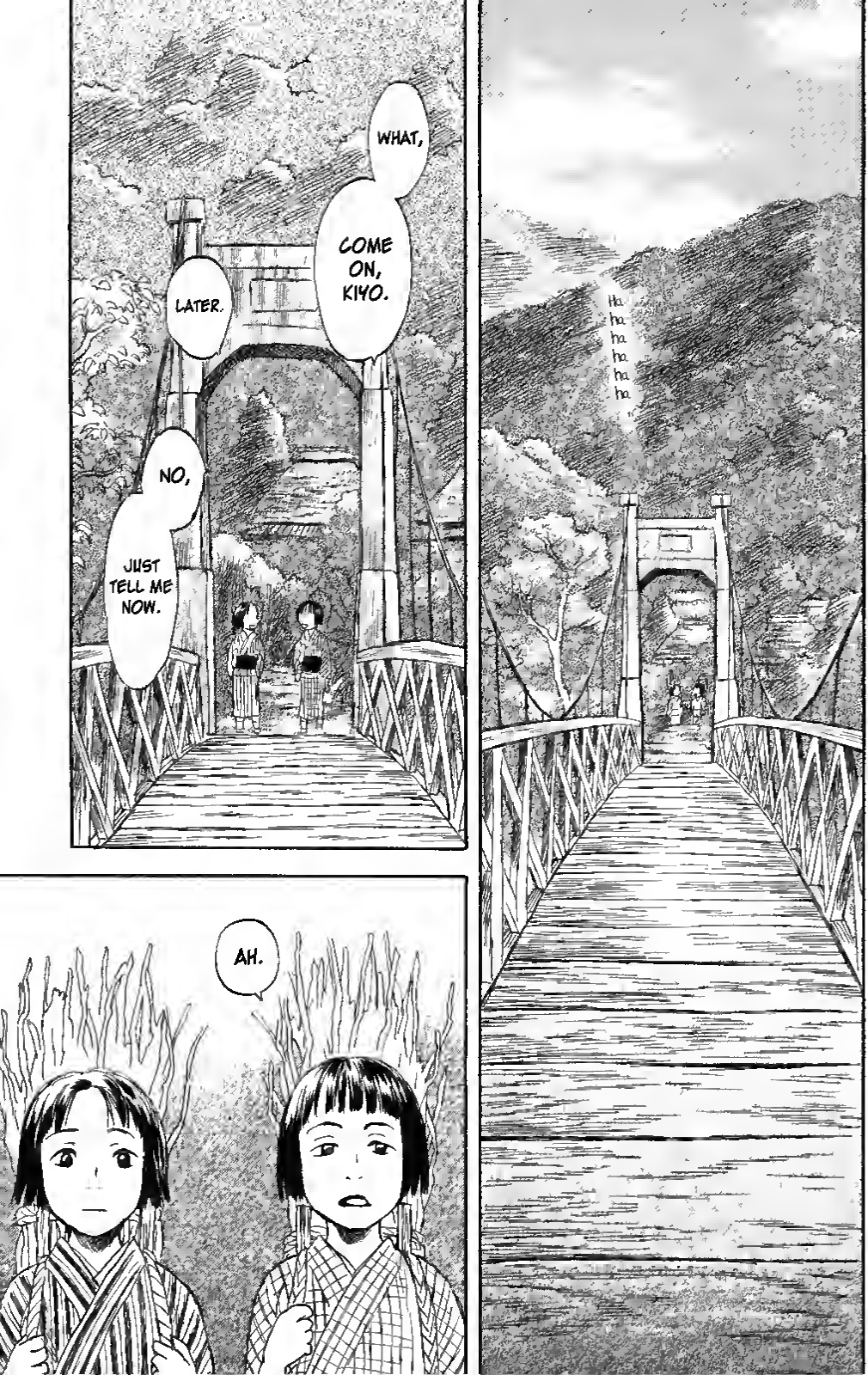
I FORGOT
TO TELL HIM THAT I WAS LEAVING AGAIN...
...I HAVEN'T EVER TOLD CHINAMI ABOUT IT...
MMM, EVEN THOUGH I TOLD HER NOT TO TALK TO CHINAMI
ABOUT THAT VILLAGE...

...SUMIO,
TATSUMI...
I WAS LYING
WHEN I SAID I FORGOT ABOUT THE VILLAGE...

YOU SAID IT ONCE BEFORE...
THAT ALTHOUGH THIS VILLAGE SEEMS LIKE ANY OLD VILLAGE,
THERE'S NO OTHER EXACTLY LIKE IT.

IT REALLY IS
AS YOU SAID...

AND THAT YOU LOVED THIS VILLAGE...


WHAT,
COME ON, KIYO.
LATER.
NO,
JUST TELL ME NOW.
Ha ha ha ha ha ha
AH.

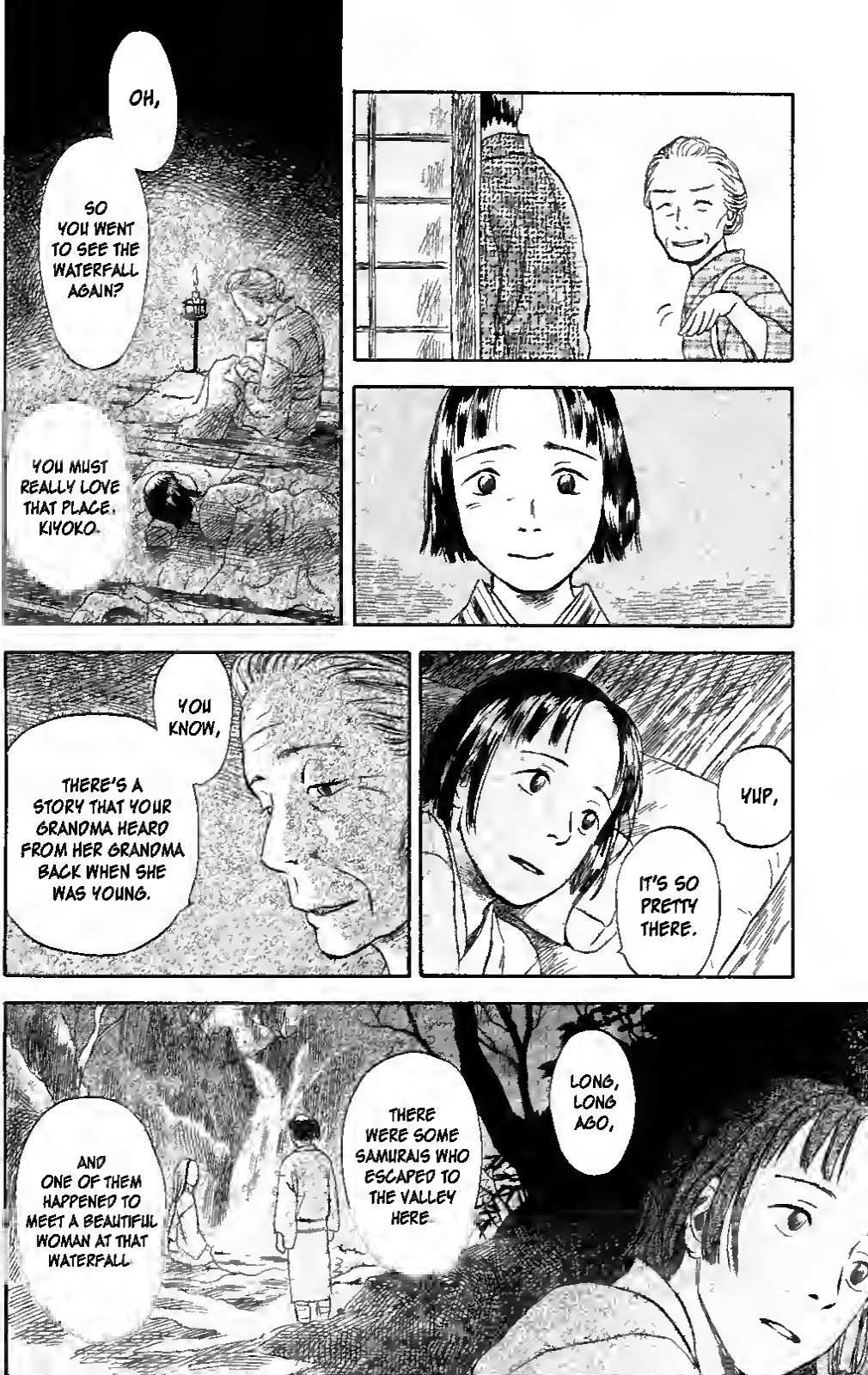
TATSUMI, WHAD'YA CATCH TODAY?
A MIN- NOW? EEL?
IT'S TATSUMI.
...NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS.
HARU, YOU KNOW HIM?
IT'S NOT LIKE WE ASKED HIM TO GIVE WHAT HE CAUGHT.
I HATE THAT GUY.

HE WAS A REAL CRYBABY WHEN HE WAS YOUNGER.
HE'S JUST A NEIGHBOUR.
MY FAMILY THINKS THAT HE'S A LITTLE SCARY...
HMM...
SO I GUESS I'LL FORGIVE THAT ATTITUDE OF HIS FOR NOW.
HE DOESN'T HAVE A DAD NO MORE,
AND HIS MOM IS ILL...

OH YEAH, KIYO,
WHAT WAS THE THING YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT?
AH, GOOD WORK, GIRLS.
OHH, PRETTY FLOWERS!
SO YOU FOUND THESE YOURSELF?
IT'S OVER HERE.
SFX. Guurrrrle
...AH, I'M HUNGRY.
ME TOO...
WHOM!!

THAT'S RIGHT, OVER THERE WE CAN...
KIYO, YOUR TONGUE IS ALL PURPLE!
YOURS TOO, HARU!
SEE YA, KIYO.
SEE YOU TOMOR-ROW!
.....
I GUESS I'LL STOP BY ON THE WAY...

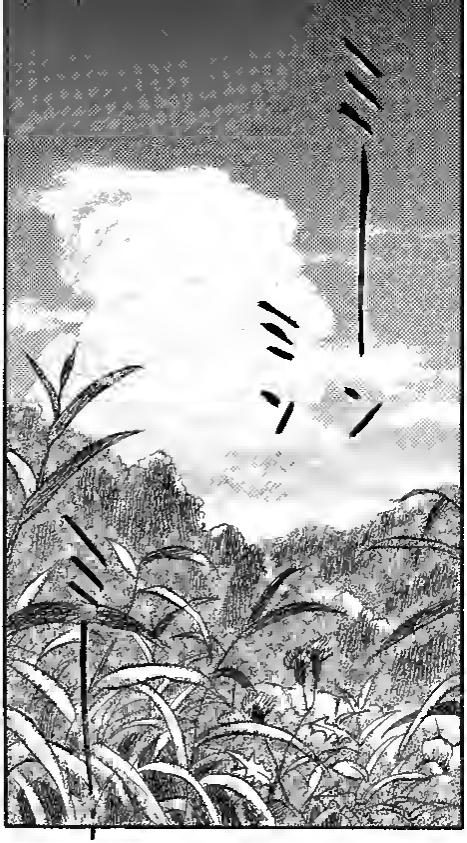
KIYOKO!!
AH,
CAN YOU COME AND HELP ME WITH THIS FOR A MINUTE?
WHAT IS IT, MOTHER?
YOU SHOULD HURRY BACK AND HELP YOUR MOTHER WITH THE HOUSEWORK.
YOU REALLY CAN BE SO IRRITATING!
...I'M SORRY.
JUST HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE FOR YOU TO GO DOWN TO THE VILLAGE AND BACK!?
I BET YOU WENT OFF AND PLAYED ON YOUR WAY BACK HOME!


OH,
SO YOU WENT TO SEE THE WATERFALL AGAIN?
YOU MUST REALLY LOVE THAT PLACE, KIYOKO.
YOU KNOW,
THERE'S A STORY THAT YOUR GRANDMA HEARD FROM HER GRANDMA BACK WHEN SHE WAS YOUNG.
YUP,
IT'S SO PRETTY THERE.
LONG, LONG AGO,
THERE WERE SOME SAMURAIS WHO ESCAPED TO THE VALLEY HERE.
AND ONE OF THEM HAPPENED TO MEET A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN AT THAT WATERFALL.

BUT,
THE BABY WAS BORN WITH A FEW SCALES ON HIS BODY.
THE TWO FELL IN LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT, AND MARRIED SOON AFTER.
THEY GAVE BIRTH TO A BABY BOY.
THE CHILD GREW UP TO BE A STRONG HEALTHY MAN,
AND HE, ALONG WITH THE OTHER VILLAGERS, HELPED DIG THE PLOT OF OUR TOWN'S FARMLAND.
THE GIRL, NOT BEING ABLE TO BEAR IT ANY LONGER,
LEFT HER HUSBAND AND BABY, LEAVING BEHIND A BEAUTIFUL CRYSTAL.
THE COUPLE TRIED THEIR BEST TO HIDE IT, BUT EVENTUALLY, THE OTHER VILLAGERS FOUND OUT.
THEY BELIEVED THAT SHE WAS ACTUALLY THE DRAGON THAT LIVED IN THE WATERFALLS
THAT VERY CRYSTAL
WAS REALLY AT THE SHRINE BY THE WATERFALL WHEN I WAS A YOUNG GIRL.

BUT ON ONE YEAR,
IT RAINED SO MUCH THAT
THE RIVER OVER-FLOODED.
AND SO, SOMEBODY GRABBED THE CRYSTAL FROM THE SHRINE AND THREW IT INTO THE RIVER,
BELIEVING THAT IT WOULD QUELL THE DRAGON GOD'S RAGE.
ALTHOUGH THE NEIGHBOURING TOWN WAS SWEPT AWAY BY THE FLOOD,
THIS TOWN HAD SOMEHOW MANAGED TO SURVIVE.
PERHAPS THAT GIRL REALLY WAS A DRAGON,
SO SHE PROTECTED THIS TOWN,
WHERE HER SON'S DESCENDANTS WERE LIVING IN...
THAT'S WHY,
WE MUST BE RESPECTFUL OF THAT WATERFALL, AND WHY WE MUST KEEP IT PRISTINE.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING OVER THERE!?
...UMM,
I WAS...
TRYING TO SEE IF THERE REALLY IS A DRAGON LIVING HERE...
...JEEZ.
YOU ALMOST LOOKED LIKE YOU WERE GOING TO SLIP AND FALL.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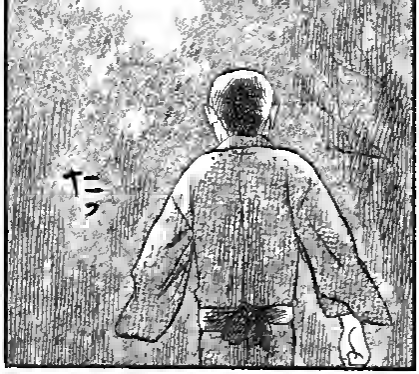
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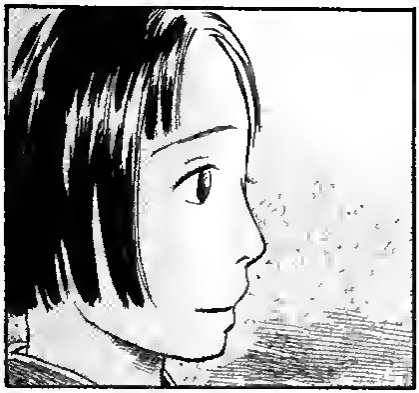

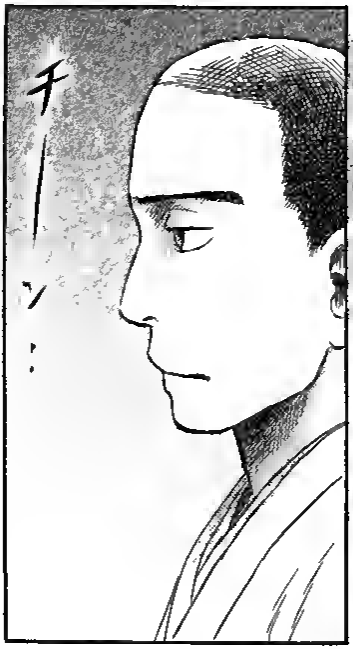
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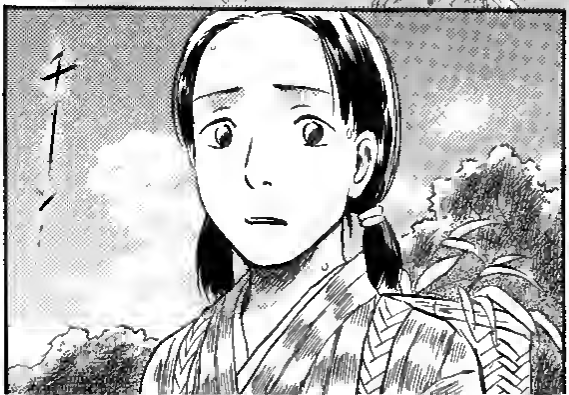
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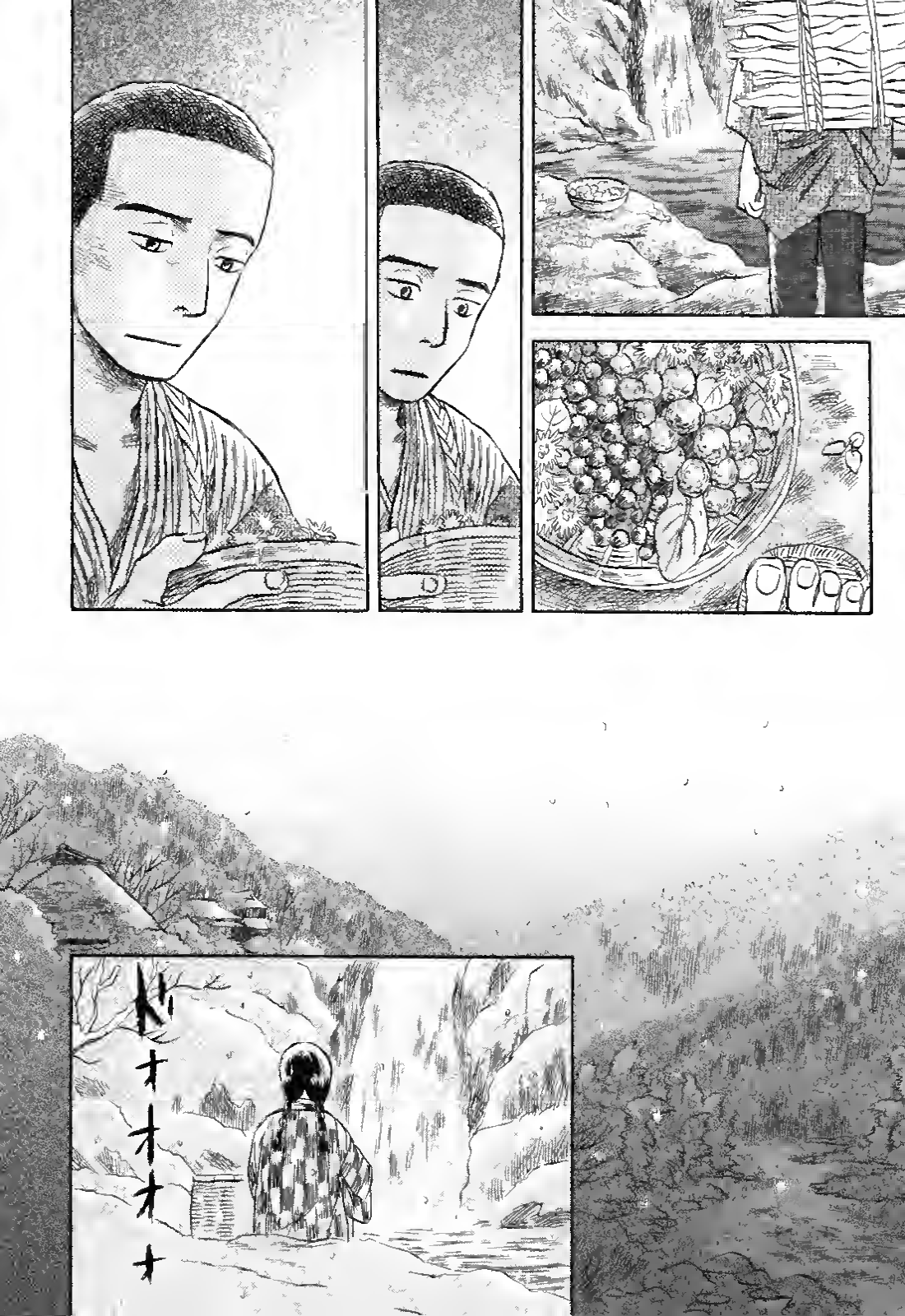
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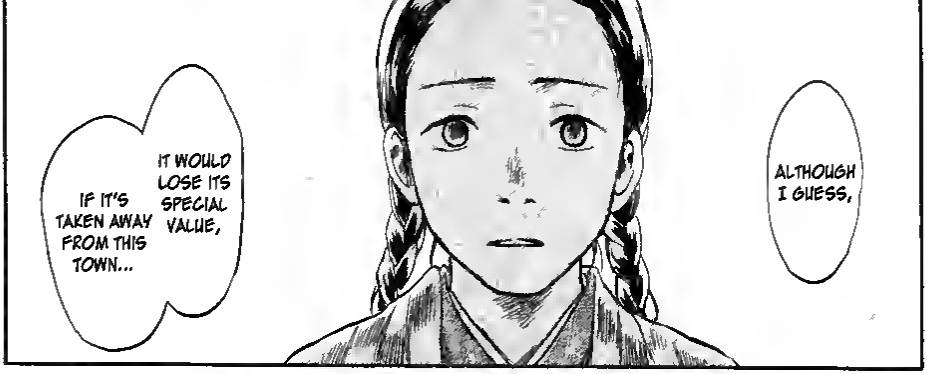
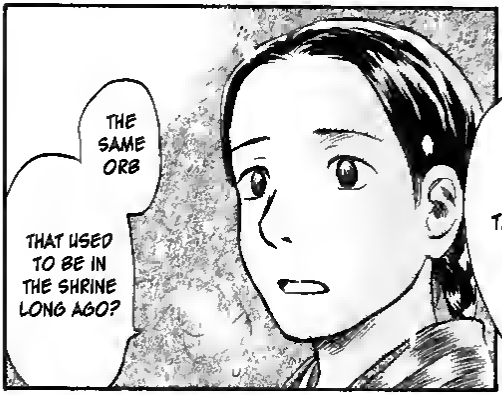
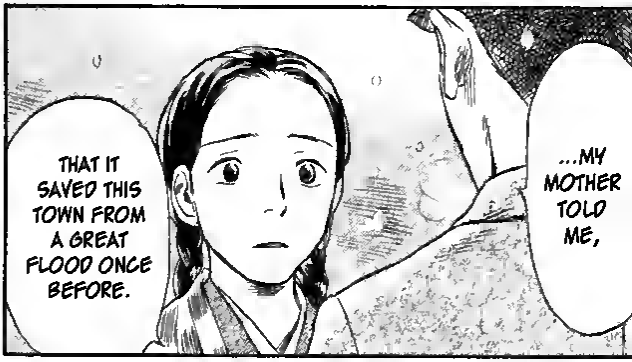
ARE YOU GOING TO JOIN THE ARMY?
!
...AREN'T YOU LEAVING THIS TOWN TO WORK AS WELL?
HERE,
TAKE THIS.
...I SEE.
...YEAH, THERE'S NO SUITABLE JOB FOR ME IN THIS VILLAGE.


ALTHOUGH I GUESS,
IT WOULD LOSE ITS SPECIAL VALUE,
IF IT'S TAKEN AWAY FROM THIS TOWN...


THE SAME ORB
THAT USED TO BE IN THE SHRINE LONG AGO?

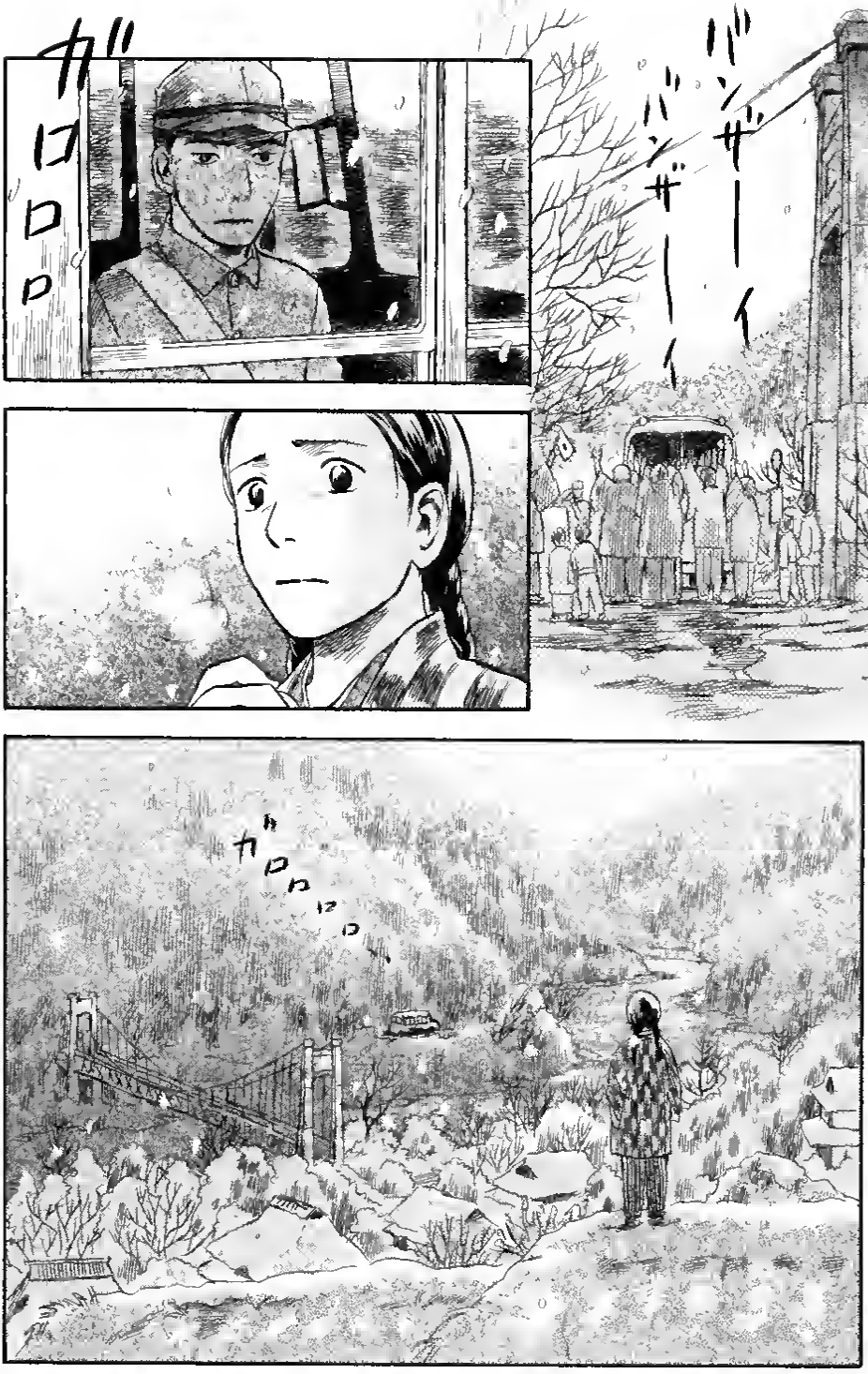
MY FATHER FOUND IT BY THE RIVER AND GAVE IT TO MY MOTHER.
...IS THAT...

AND IF I DON'T RETURN, YOU CAN HAVE IT.


THAT IT SAVED THIS TOWN FROM A GREAT FLOOD ONCE BEFORE.
...MY MOTHER TOLD ME,

I WANT...
YOU TO KEEP IT FOR NOW.
SOMETHING THAT PRECIOUS...

I DON'T WANT THINGS TO BE LIKE THAT!!
...NO.
.....
IF THAT'S SO, THEN ALRIGHT...
.....
SORRY.
JUST HOLD ON TO IT UNTIL I COME BACK.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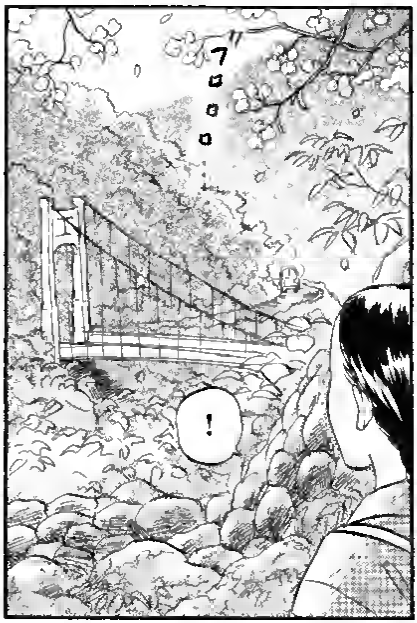
Chapter 02
End

Chapter 03
Ripples

Whew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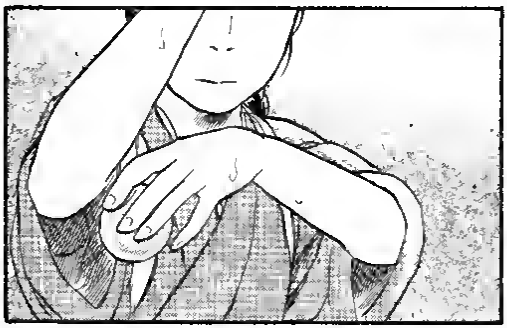
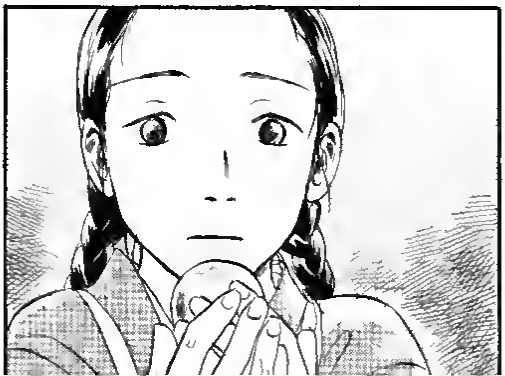
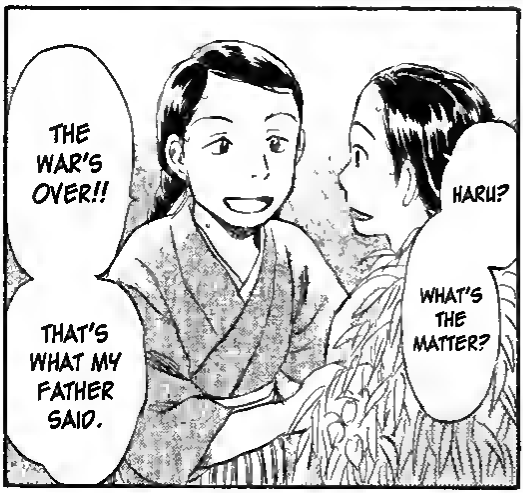
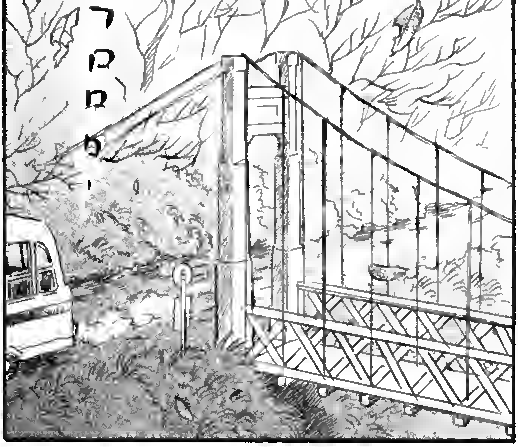


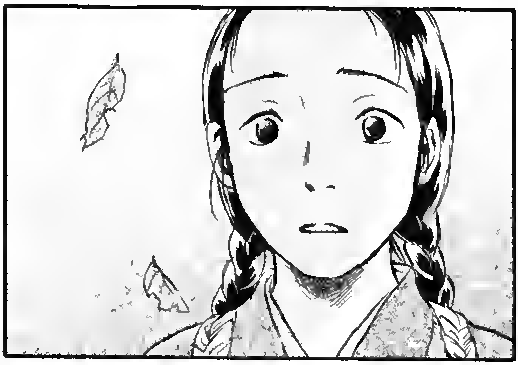


KIYO!

I'M SURE TATSUMI WILL BE BACK SOON NOW.

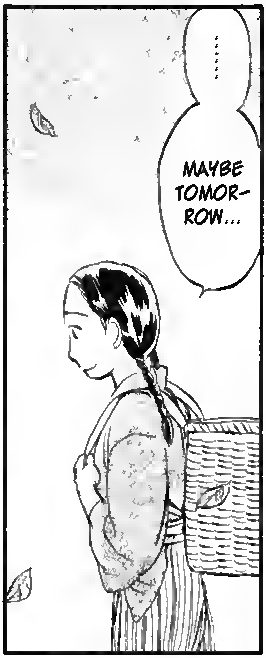

THE WAR'S OVER!!
THAT'S WHAT MY FATHER SAID.
HARU?
WHAT'S THE MATTER?





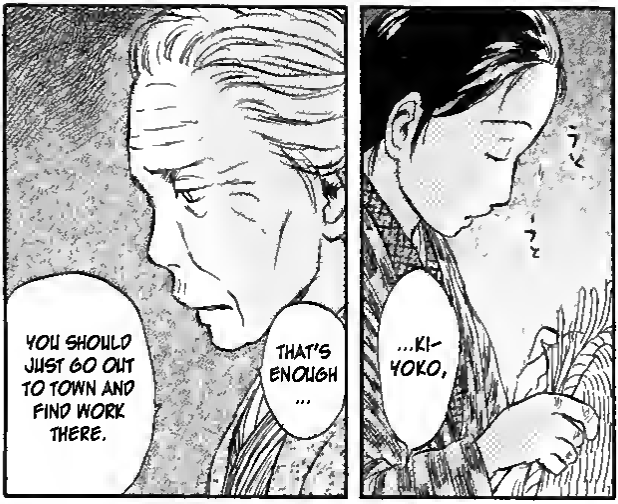
I...
I'M THINKING OF BUYING MORE FARMLAND...

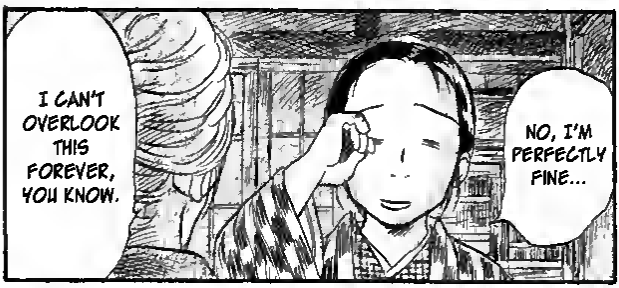
KIYOKO,
I HAVE SOME-THING TO SAY.


.....
MAYBE TOMOR-ROW...

I'M SORRY TO PUSH THIS ON YOU SO SUDDENLY,
BUT I NEED YOU TO CHOOSE NOW.
WE ALREADY HAVE ENOUGH FEMALE WORKERS HERE SO IT'D BE BEST IF YOU STARTED WORKING OUT IN THE TOWN...
BUT IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE SOUND OF THAT, THEN YOU SHOULD THINK OF GETTING MARRIED.
Take this. Although I guess
it would lose its special value if it's taken away from this village...
GOOD.
I SEE...
THEN, WE SHOULD DECIDE ON A SUITABLE HUSBAND.
...I,
I WANT... TO STAY IN THIS VILLAGE.

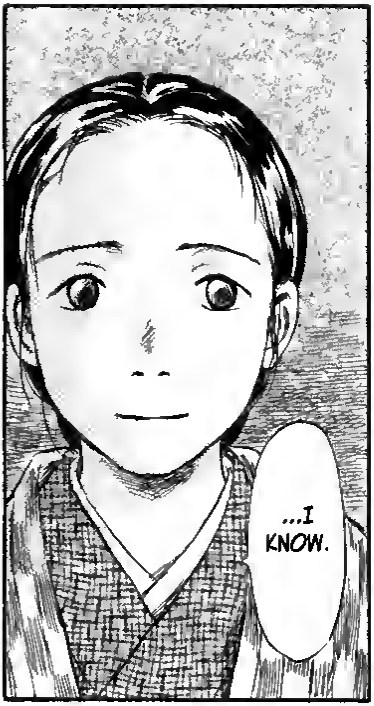
...DAD,
COULD YOU PLEASE ...
GIVE ME A LITTLE MORE TIME?
IN THE MEANWHILE, I'LL DO ANYTHING, EVEN WORK USUALLY DONE BY THE MEN.
SO PLEASE.
JUST WAIT A LITTLE LONGER...
MMF,
ONE, TWO!
ガラガラ
hah
hah


YOU SHOULD JUST GO OUT TO TOWN AND FIND WORK THERE.
THAT'S ENOUGH ...
...KI-YOKO,


I CAN'T OVERLOOK THIS FOREVER, YOU KNOW.
NO, I'M PERFECTLY FINE...

BUT HE GAVE SUCH AN IMPORTANT THING TO ME TO WATCH OVER. AT THE VERY LEAST, I WANT TO KEEP OUR PROMISE...
NO, THAT'S NOT IT...

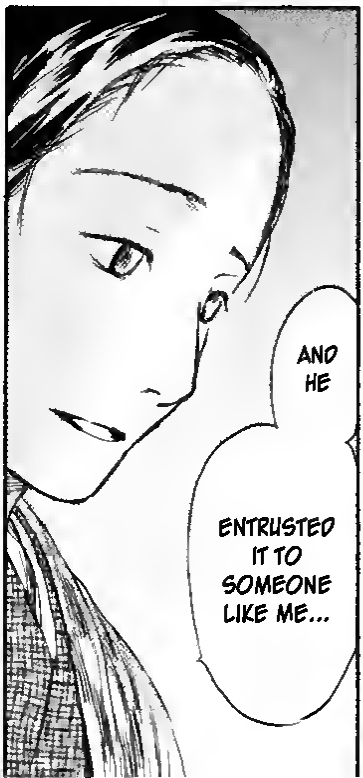
SAY THAT HE WOULD MARRY YOU AFTER HE CAME BACK?
DID THE BOY WHO GAVE YOU THAT ORB


...I KNOW.

...KI-YOKO,

THAT STORY I TOLD YOU LONG AGO IS JUST A STORY.

I'M SORRY FOR MAKING YOU WORRY, GRAND-MA...


AND HE ENTRUSTED IT TO SOMEONE LIKE ME...

BUT EVEN SO, THIS ORB IS SOMETHING VERY PRECIOUS TO TATSUMI...

I DON'T MIND THE EXTRA WORK...

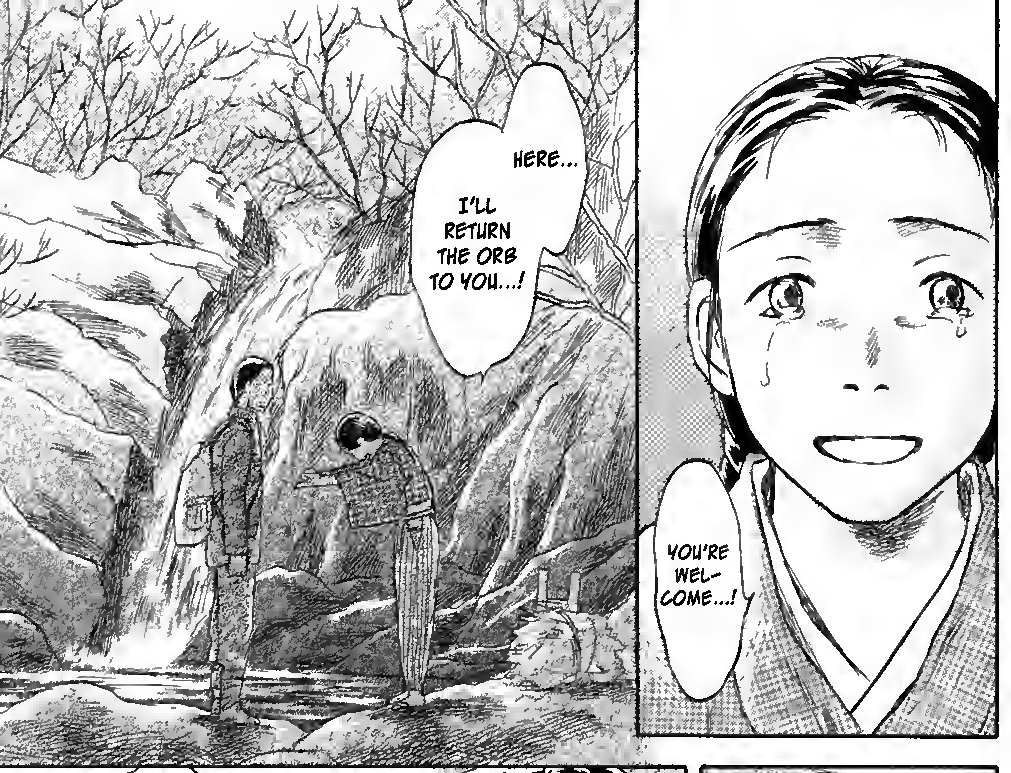
.....
YOUR HOUSE IS IN SHAMBLES NOW...
IF YOU DON'T COME BACK SOON,
IT'LL BE EVEN HARDER TO FIX IT UP...
...ARE YOU
NEVER GOING TO COME BACK?

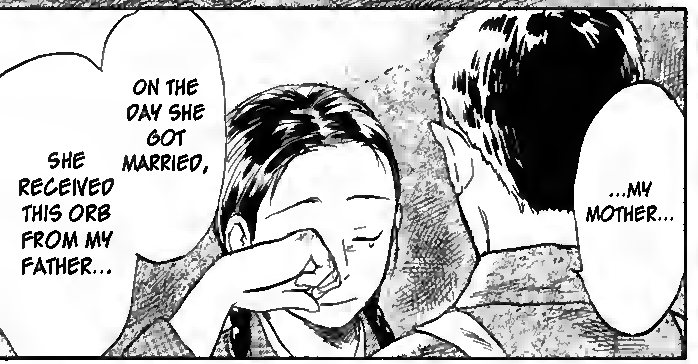
I'M REALLY...
HAPLESS, AREN'T I...

.....

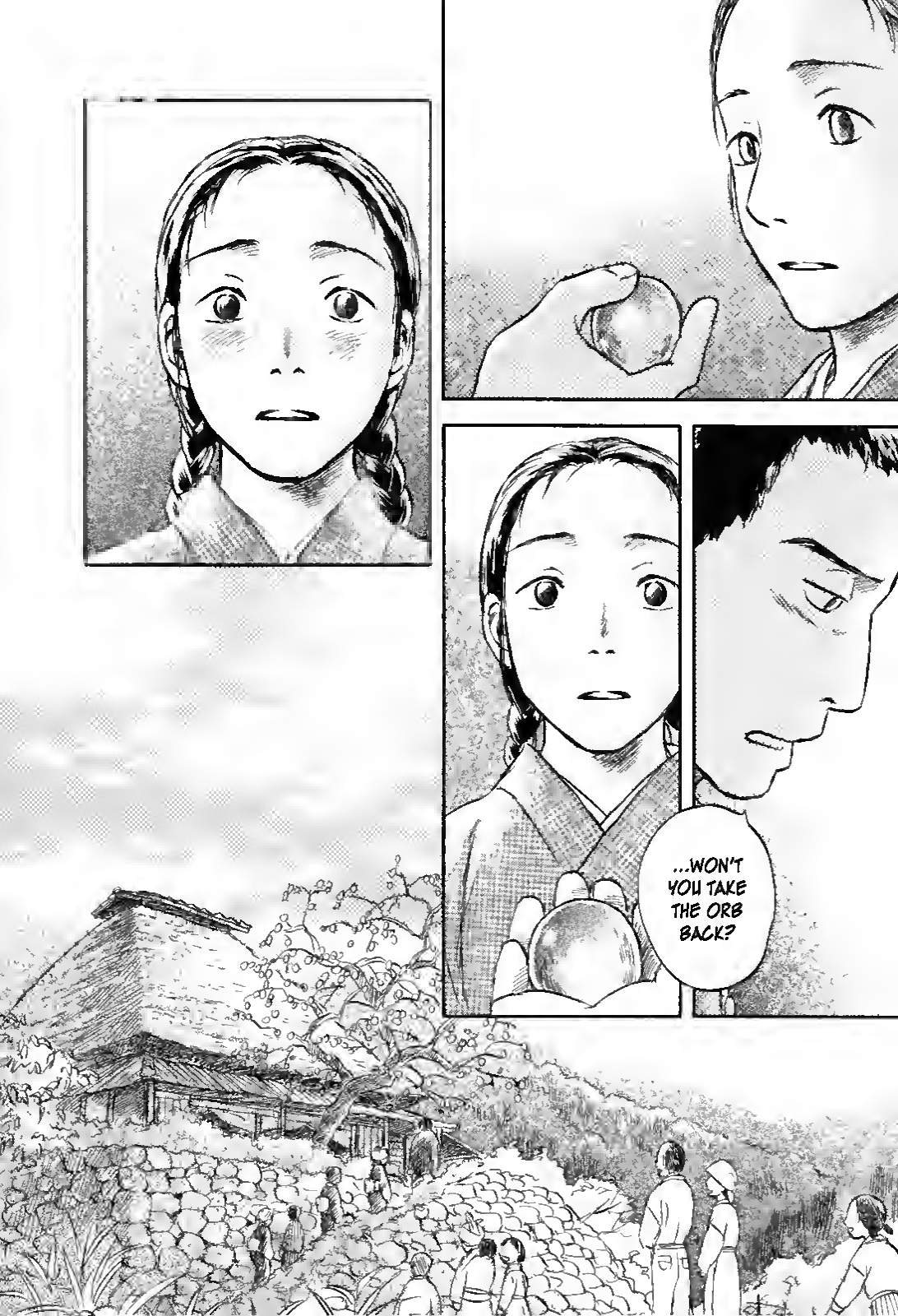
WHAT WILL I DO IF YOU DON'T COME BACK...?
I HAVEN'T EVEN THOUGHT ABOUT IT...

I'D BE BACK, DIDN'T I?
...I TOLD YOU
FOR MAKING YOU HOLD ONTO THAT THING FOR SO LONG...
SORRY ...


HERE...
I'LL RETURN THE ORB TO YOU...!
YOU'RE WELCOME...!


ON THE DAY SHE GOT MARRIED,
SHE RECEIVED THIS ORB FROM MY FATHER...
...MY MOTHER...

TO DO THE SAME THING TOO ONE DAY.
AND BEFORE SHE PASSED AWAY, SHE TOLD ME...


...WON'T YOU TAKE THE ORB BACK?

WE'LL BE NEIGHBOURS FROM TODAY!
I'M SO HAPPY FOR YOU, KIYO!!
YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T TALK ABOUT STUFF LIKE THAT SO OPENLY.
Same to you, Kiyoka.
Haha.
YOU CAN COME TO OUR HOUSE IF YOU EVER HAVE TROUBLES AT YOUR HOME.
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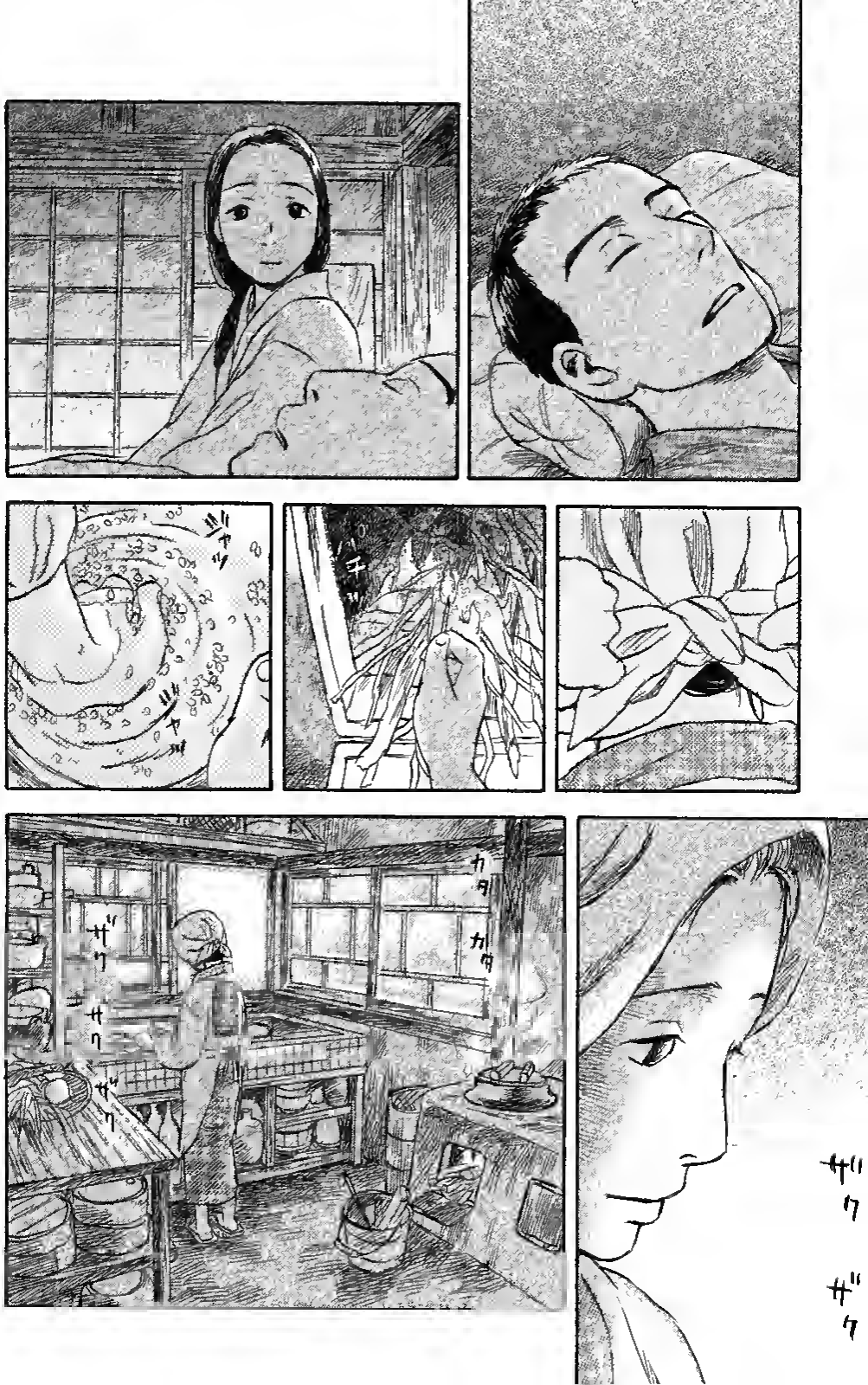
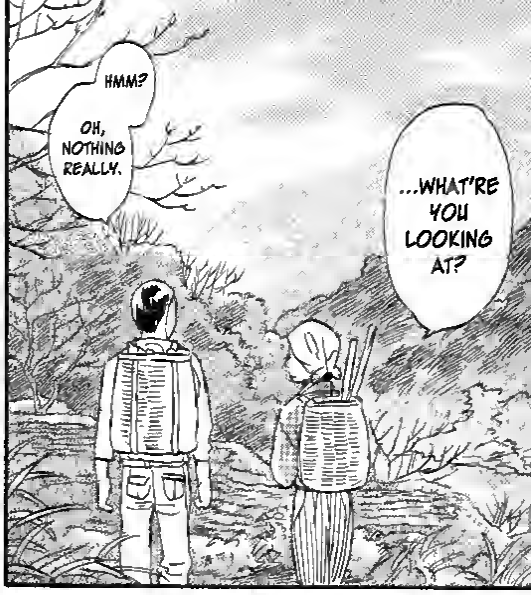
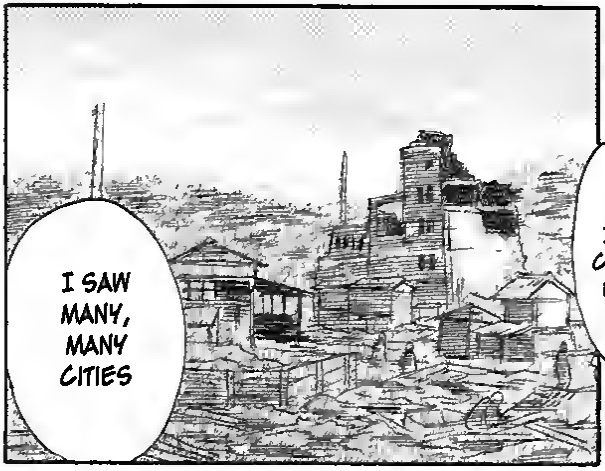
あはは、



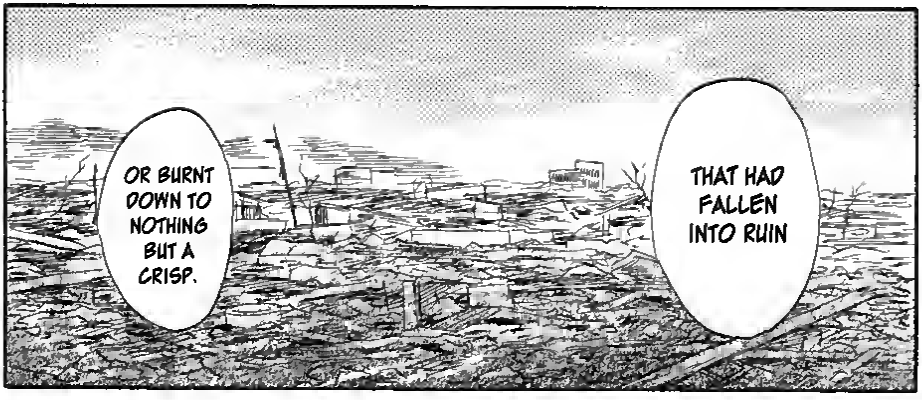
AH,
SINCE WHEN WERE YOU STANDING THERE?
トン トン トン
YOU SHOULD'VE AT LEAST SAID SOMETHING.
OKAY ...
GOOD MORNING ...
GOOD MORNING TO YOU TOO.

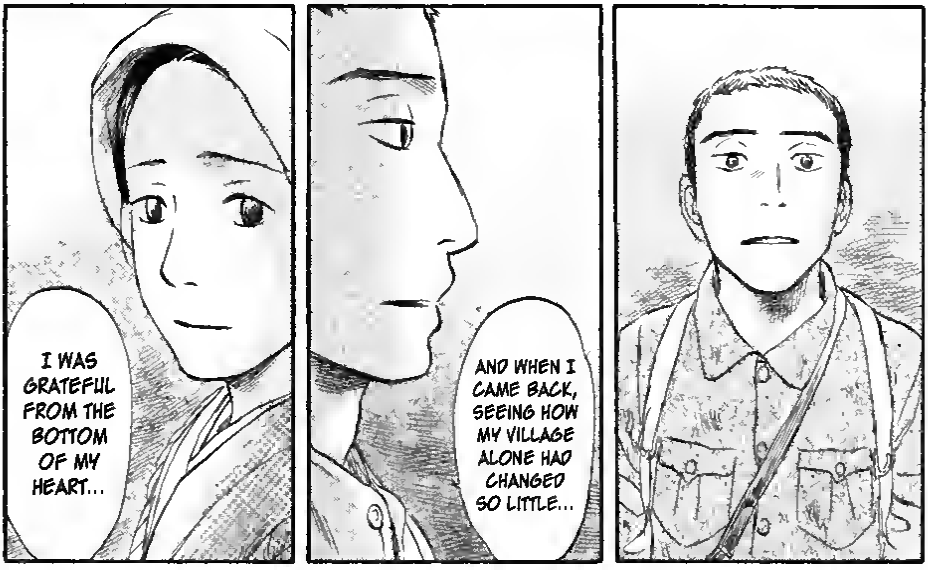
I WAS JUST THINKING HOW LITTLE THINGS HAVE CHANGED OUT HERE.


HMM?
OH, NOTHING REALLY.
...WHAT'RE YOU LOOKING AT?


I SAW MANY, MANY CITIES

...AS I WAS COMING BACK,


OR BURNT DOWN TO NOTHING BUT A CRISP.
THAT HAD FALLEN INTO RUIN


I WAS GRATEFUL FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART...
AND WHEN I CAME BACK, SEEING HOW MY VILLAGE ALONE HAD CHANGED SO LITTLE...

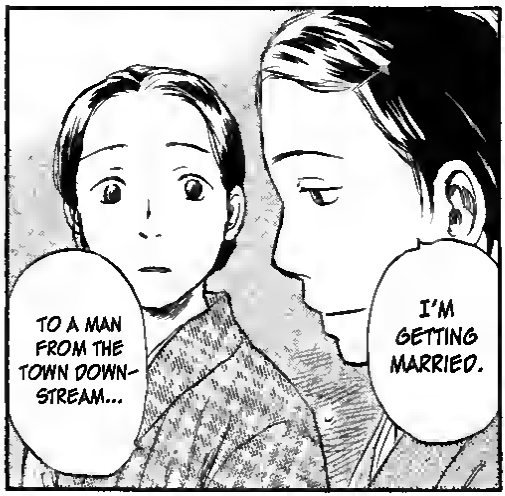
IT WAS NOTHING.
THANK YOU.
FOR NOT CHANG-ING.
AND I'M THANKFUL FOR YOU TOO...

KIYOOO!!
ARE YOU HOME?
YES, HARU!!
AH, YOU SHOWED UP AT A GOOD TIME.
YOU SURE DID CATCH A LOT, TATSUMI.
PLEASE FEEL FREE TO TAKE SOME HOME.
WOW!!

HAHA,
WHAT SHOULD I DO...
LOOK HOW BIG YOU ARE NOW, YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO EAT AT LEAST THIS MUCH.
IT'S NOT LIKE I'M THE ONE WHO FORCED YOU TO EAT MY SHARE.
AND JUST WHO'S THE ONE WHO MADE ME THIS BIG?

HEY, HEY.
JEEZ, JUST HOW BIG OF AN EATER DO YOU THINK I AM, DEAR?
YOU SHOULD BE EATING ENOUGH FOR THE BABY TOO.

HE'S MUCH MORE TALKATIVE THESE DAYS.
BUT YOU KNOW, TATSUMI SURE HAS CHANGED A LOT.


TO A MAN FROM THE TOWN DOWN-STREAM...
I'M GETTING MARRIED.

I WONDER IF MY MAN WILL BE AS NICE TOO...?
HMM?

HAHA...
WE'LL FINALLY BE ABLE TO LIVE PEACEFULLY ONCE YOU GO AWAY.
WELL... CONGRATULATIONS.
...BUT I'M GOING TO BE A LITTLE LONELY SINCE WE WON'T GET TO BE NEIGHBORS ANYMORE...
NO, YOU WON'T.
YOU HAVE YOUR HUSBAND WITH YOU, DON'T YOU?
IS THAT SO? WELL, I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO COME BACK OVER EVERY NOW AND THEN.
PLEASE DO COME VISIT US, HARU.
YUP,
OF COURSE I WILL.

EVERY-ONE...
IS LEAVING FOR THE TOWN...
YEAH...
...WELL,
SOON, WE WON'T EVEN HAVE ENOUGH FREE TIME TO FEEL LONELY.
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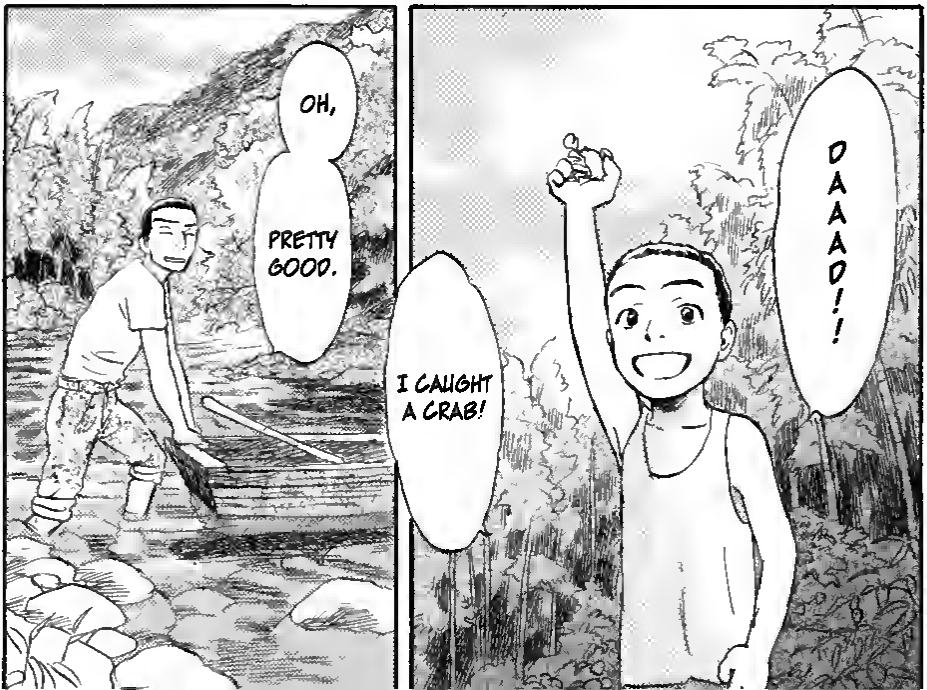
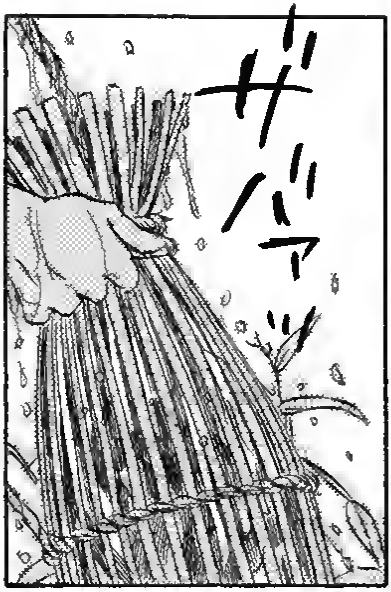
WHOOOA,
SUMIO!
WHAT'S WRONG?

...NO FAIR.
IT'S TIME FOR HIS MILK
GIVE HIM BACK NOW.
SUMIO!!
IF I HAD BREASTS TOO, I WOULDN'T LOSE TO YOU.
YOU SHOULDN'T EVEN THINK ABOUT THAT.
WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
IT'S A CHARM TO MAKE HIM WALK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

SUMIO,
HURRY UP
AND START WALKING.
THEN WE'LL BE ABLE TO PLAY TOGETHER.


DAAAD!!
I CAUGHT A CRAB!
OH,
PRETTY GOOD.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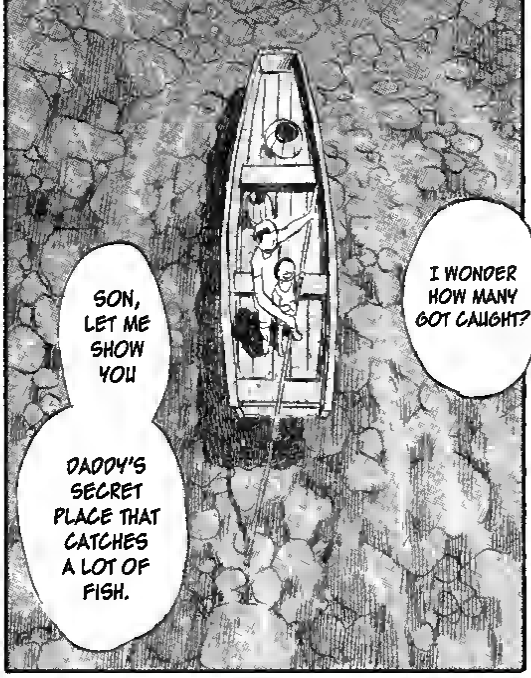
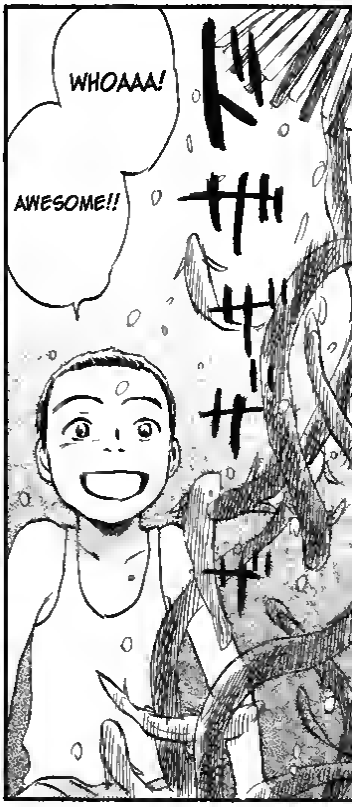
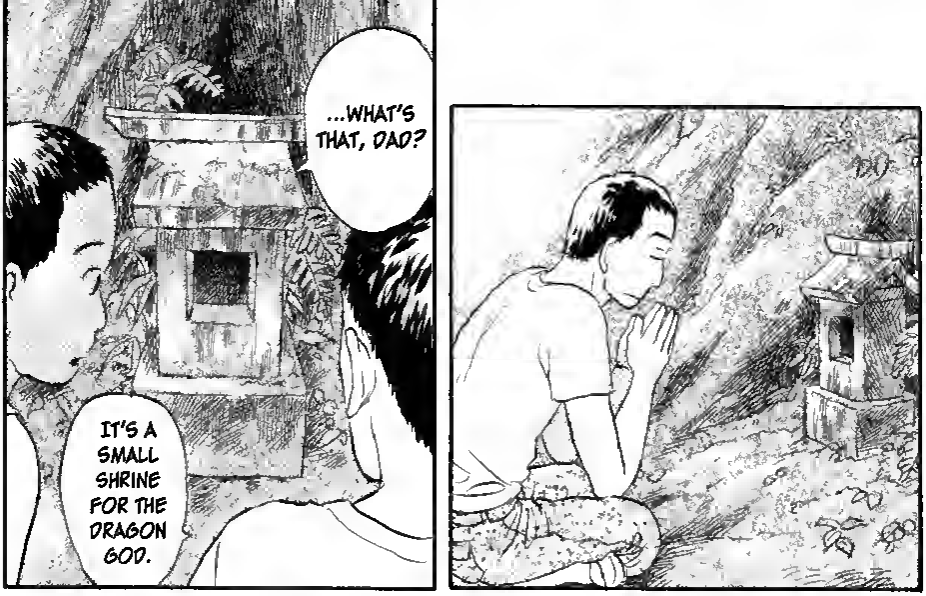
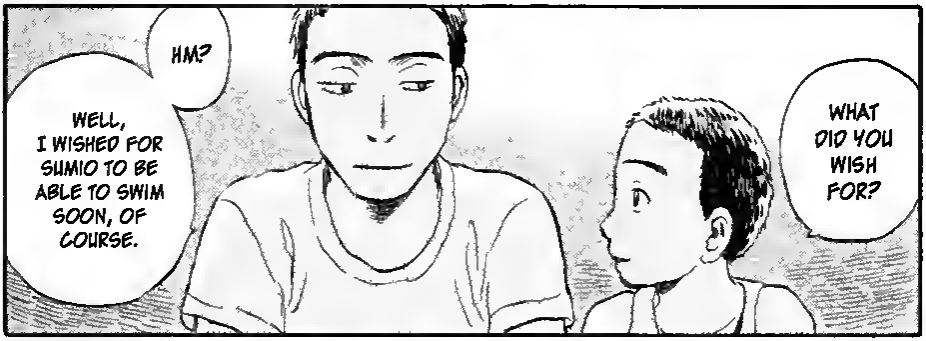

I WONDER HOW MANY GOT CAUGHT?
SON, LET ME SHOW YOU
DADDY'S SECRET PLACE THAT CATCHES A LOT OF FISH.

AM I BETTER THAN MOM?
YOU'RE THE BEST, DAD!
WELL... THAT'S A DIFFERENT MATTER.
I SEE ...
SO I LOST AGAIN ...?


WHOAAA!
AWESOME!!

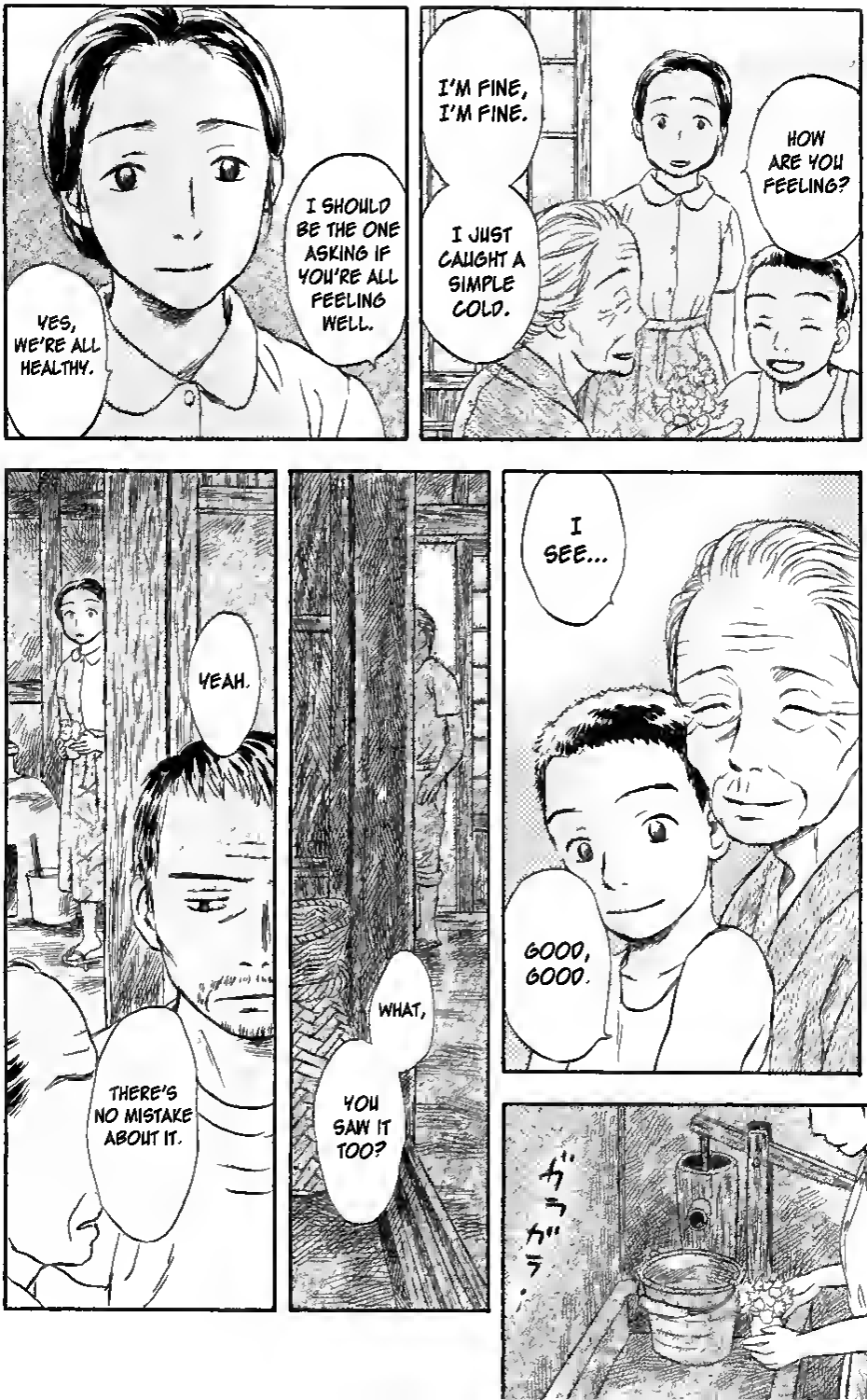
ドオオオオオ
WHOAAA!
COOL PLACE, RIGHT?
HOW IS IT, SUMIO?
ドオオオオオ
IT'S AMAZING!
DON'T BE TOO NOISY NOW.


...WHAT'S THAT, DAD?
IT'S A SMALL SHRINE FOR THE DRAGON GOD.

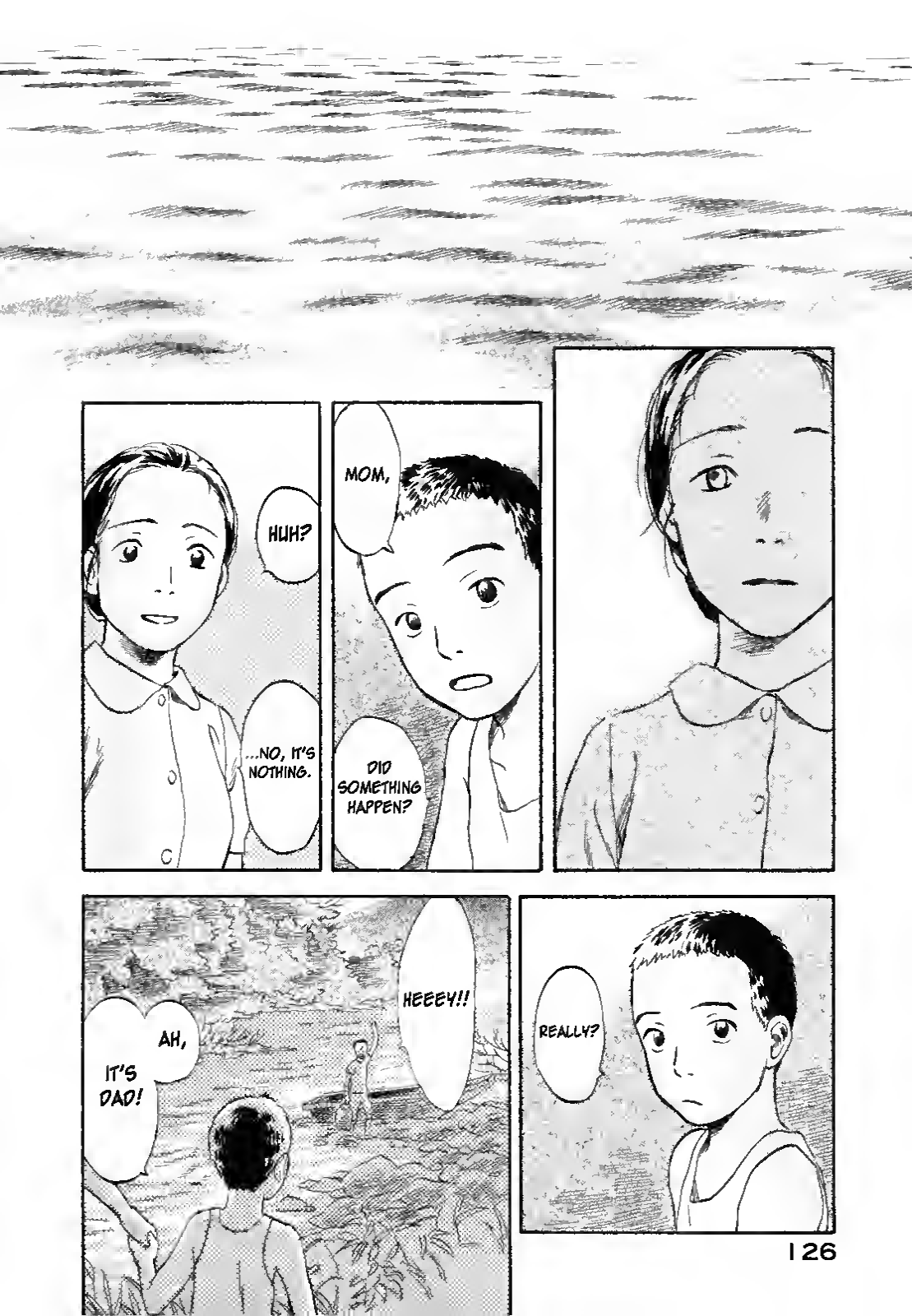

HM?
WELL, I WISHED FOR SUMIO TO BE ABLE TO SWIM SOON, OF COURSE.
WHAT DID YOU WISH FOR?

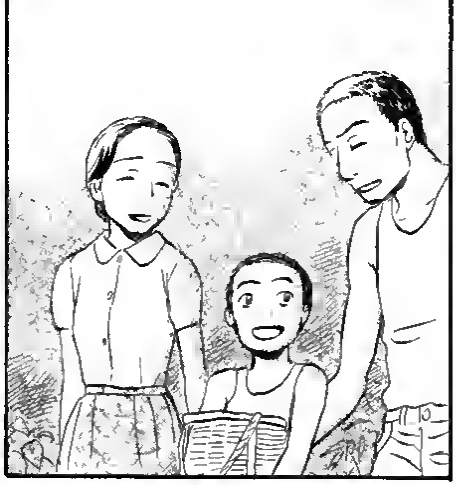
I WISHED...
THAT WE COULD ALL LIVE HAPPILY TOGETHER LIKE THIS FOREVER.
HAHA. JUST KIDDING.
I CAN ALREADY SWIM GOOD ENOUGH!

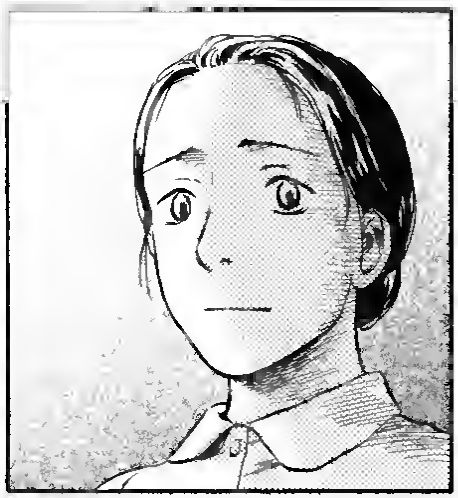
HAHA, WISHING FOR THAT?
PLEASE MAKE ME BE ABLE TO SWIM.
HMM...
YOU SHOULD PRAY FOR SOMETHING, TOO.
シャワシャワ
シャワシャワ
GREAT-GRANDMA!


I SHOULD BE THE ONE ASKING IF YOU'RE ALL FEELING WELL.
YES, WE'RE ALL HEALTHY.
HOW ARE YOU FEELING?
I'M FINE, I'M FINE.
I JUST CAUGHT A SIMPLE COLD.
I SEE...
GOOD, GOOD.
YEAH.
THERE'S NO MISTAKE ABOUT IT.
WHAT,
YOU SAW IT TOO?
ｶﾞﾗｶﾞﾗ

I LOOKED INTO IT.
THEY'RE PLANNING TO BUILD A DAM UP THERE.
THAT AIN'T NO LAUGHING MATTER...
WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO OUR VILLAGE THEN?
LIKE I'D LET THEM DO WHATEVER THE HELL THEY WANT!!
THAT'S RIGHT.
NEXT TIME THEY COME, WE HAVE TO GET EVERYONE AND FIGHT BACK.


HUH?
...NO, IT'S NOTHING.
MOM,
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
HEEEY!!
AH, IT'S DAD!
REALLY?





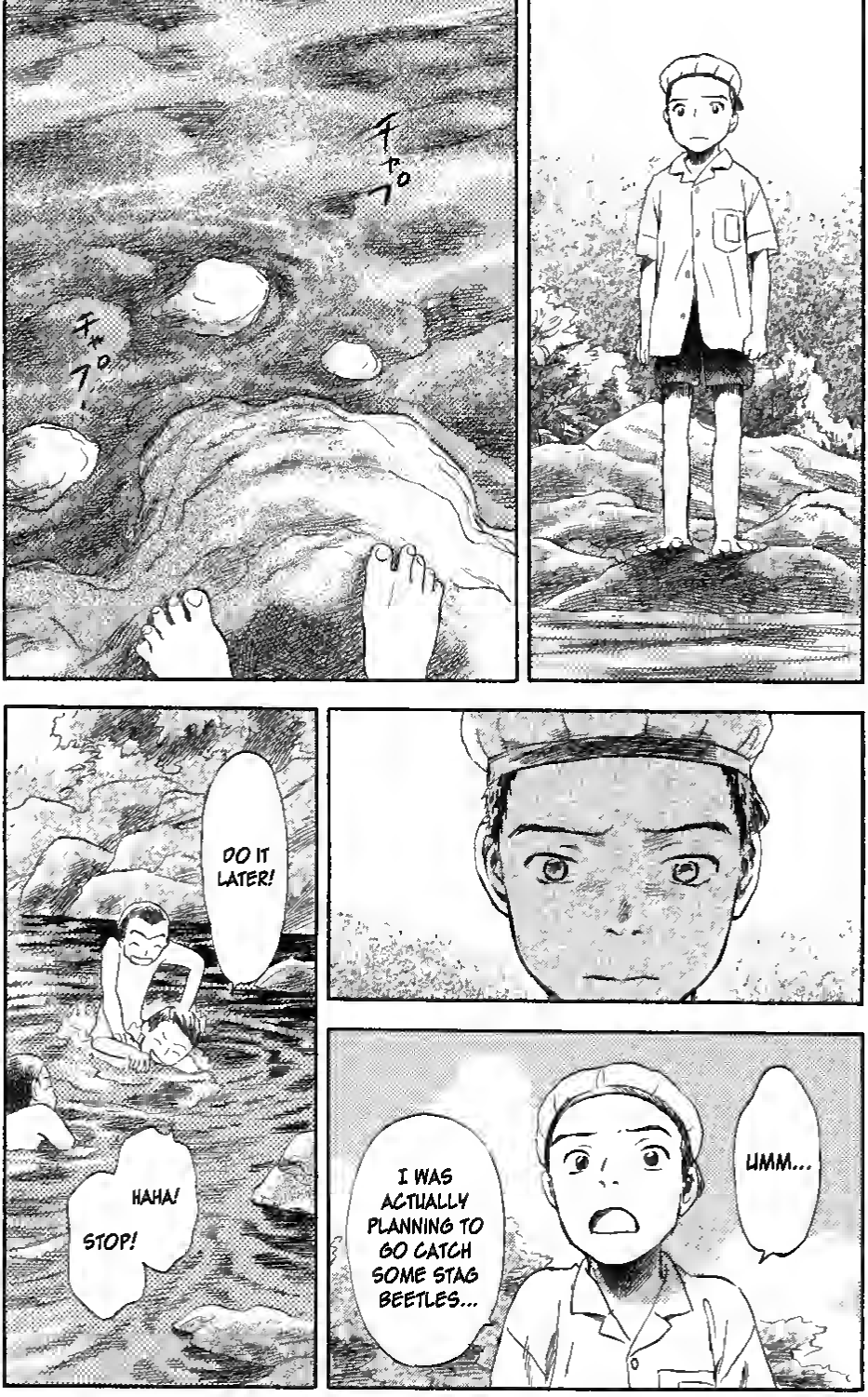
IT...
STILL HASN'T BEEN SET IN STONE THAT THAT'LL HAPPEN.
.....

IT'LL BE FINE.
THERE ARE PLACES DEEPER IN THE WOODS WE CAN STILL LIVE IN.
BUT STILL...
I HOPE SO...
IT'LL BE ALRIGHT...

Chapter 03
End

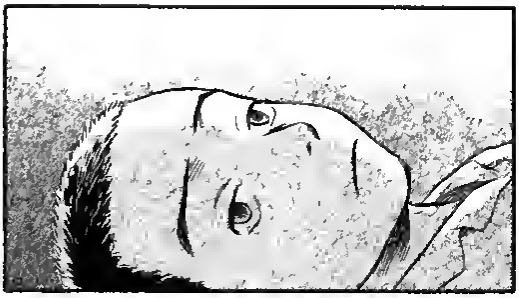
Chapter 04
River Child

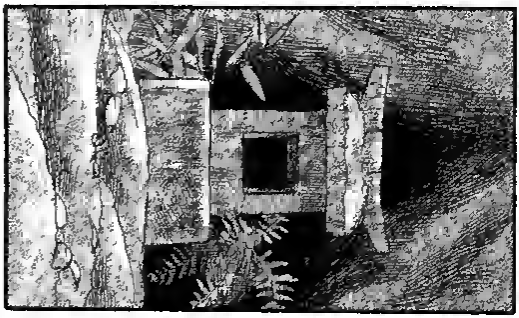
HEY, DID YA SEE THAT?
HUH? WHAT?
WOOHOO!
YOU COME IN TOO, SUMIO!
IT FEELS GREAT!


DO IT LATER!
HAHA! STOP!
I WAS ACTUALLY PLANNING TO GO CATCH SOME STAG BEETLES...
UMM...

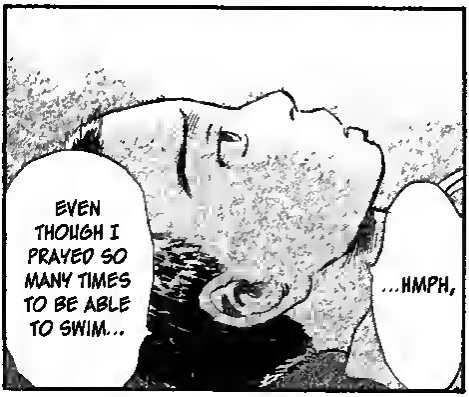
I'M NOT GONNA GIVE YOU ANY BIG ONES I MIGHT CATCH!
バニャバニャ
NOTHING BUT SCARAB BEETLES ...
...SO HOT.

ふっ…
IT LOOKS SO NICE WHEN I JUST LOOK AT IT, BUT...
ヒタ
WHY DO I FEEL SO SCARED
WHEN I TRY TO GO IN...?
……
ひっ
I'M NO GOOD...



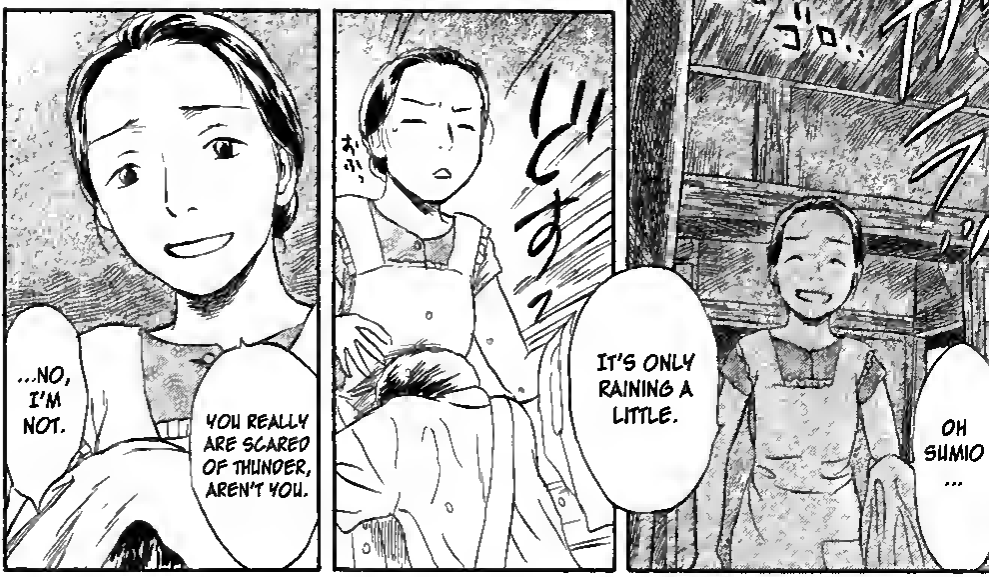


AHH...
SO BORED ...


EVEN THOUGH I PRAYED SO MANY TIMES TO BE ABLE TO SWIM...
...HMPH,

...THAT DRAGON GOO...
HE AIN'T NOTHING SPECIAL.

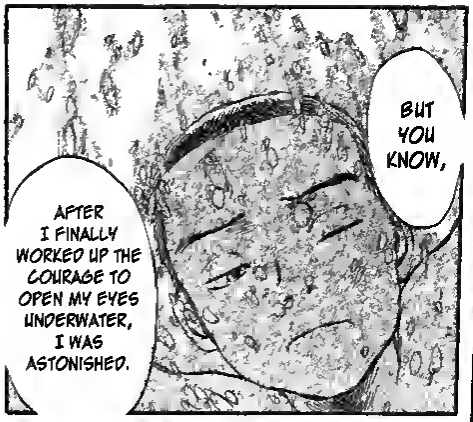
NO, IT CAN'T BE...!
NO...!
...AH,


ゴロゴロ…
ピカッ
ゴロゴロ…
ピシャ
OH SUMIO …
IT'S ONLY RAINING A LITTLE.
YOU REALLY ARE SCARED OF THUNDER, AREN'T YOU.
…NO, I'M NOT.

ゴロゴロ…
ゴロゴロ…
THEN JUST WHAT ARE YOU DOING RIGHT HERE?
IT JUST FEELS NICE HERE, THAT'S ALL.
AHH…
THAT WAS QUITE THE DOWNPOUR.

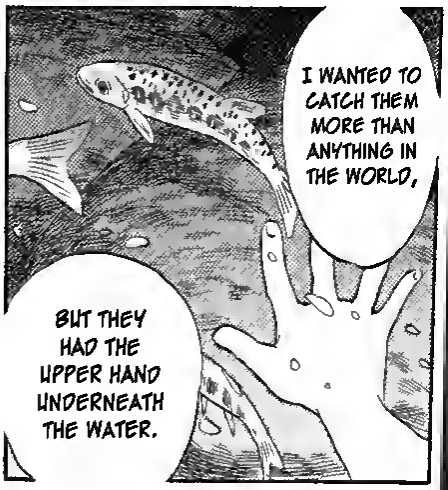
SUMIO,
YOU WANT TO GO CAST THE LONGLINE WITH YOUR OLD MAN?
YOU'LL BE ABLE TO PRACTICE GETTING IN THE WATER.
...YEAH.
カナカナカナカナカナカナカナカナ
BUT THERE'S NO NEED TO RUSH THINGS.
I KNOW IT'S TOUGH FOR YOU.
JUST TAKE ONE STEP AT A TIME.
...BUT EVERY-ONE ELSE IS FINE WITH THE WATER.
I'M JUST A SCAREDY CAT...
SUMIO...
IT'S NATURAL TO FEAR THE WATER.
IN FACT, IT WOULD BE SCARY TO NOT FEAR THE WATER AT ALL.

WHEN I WAS YOUNG,
I WAS SCARED OF THE WATER TOO.


BUT YOU KNOW,
AFTER I FINALLY WORKED UP THE COURAGE TO OPEN MY EYES UNDERWATER, I WAS ASTONISHED.

WITHIN AN INSTANT,
THE CICADAS' CRIES...
AND THE SUN'S HOT RAYS CAN ALL VANISH BELOW THE SURFACE.
I WAS A LITTLE AFRAID
OF DE-SCENDING DOWN TO A WORLD WITH NO SOUND NOR AIR.

BUT THEN I SAW THE FISH SWIMMING, WHICH WERE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM THOSE UP IN THE STREAMS,
AND THEY WERE ALL SWIMMING AROUND SO FREELY AND VIGOROUSLY.


I WANTED TO CATCH THEM MORE THAN ANYTHING IN THE WORLD,
BUT THEY HAD THE UPPER HAND UNDERNEATH THE WATER.

I COULDN'T CATCH THEM AT ALL.
AND SO EVER SINCE THEN, I KEPT TRYING TO CATCH THEM...
UNTIL I FOUND THAT I HAD BECOME A SLAVE FOR MY LOVE OF THE RIVER.
HMM...
DAD...
WHAT?

SOME-
HOW...
THE
RIVER SEEMS
DIFFERENT
THAN USUAL...
IS
THAT
SO?
THE
WATER
...
SEEMS
TO BE
SMILING
AT ME.
SUMIO,
IT'S PRETTY
DEEP OVER
TH-!!
SUMIO!

WHERE ARE YOU!?
SUMIO!?
AH! FISH!
DAD!
I CAN SWIM!!!
Ahh!
SUMIO, DON'T GET TOO CARRIED AWAY, NOW.
BUT I DON'T FEEL AFRAID OF THE WATER AT ALL!
IT'S SO STRANGE,

!
HEY!
HEY!
LET'S GO ROCK SKIPPING!
HEY, SUMIO!
I'LL BE OFF, MOM!
YOU HAVE TO COME BACK EARLY TO HEAT UP THE BATH TODAY!
YEAH, I KNOW, MOM!
THAT LITTLE RASCAL.
THAT'S WHAT HE ALWAYS SAYS...

I WONDER JUST WHAT'S SO FUN...?
WHAT, ARE YOU LONELY?
NO, NOT REALLY...
IT'S ONLY BEEN TWO YEARS SINCE HE'S BECOME ABLE TO SWIM.
HE'S STILL GOING TO BE OBSESSED WITH THE RIVER.
BUT GIVEN HOW MUCH HE PLAYS EVERY DAY, IT'S A WONDER HE HASN'T GROWN TIRED OF IT...
WOOHOO!

AGHH!
IT GOT AWAY AGAIN!
HAHA, YOU SUCK.
HAHHH!
HEY!
WATCH THIS!

HOW WAS IT?
YOU GUYS SHOULD TRY IT TOO!
DAMN,
MASARU'S SO COOL.
FOR THE PAST FOUR YEARS, HE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO'S DARED TO JUMP FROM THIS HEIGHT...
.....
I'M REALLY GONNA DO IT TODAY...
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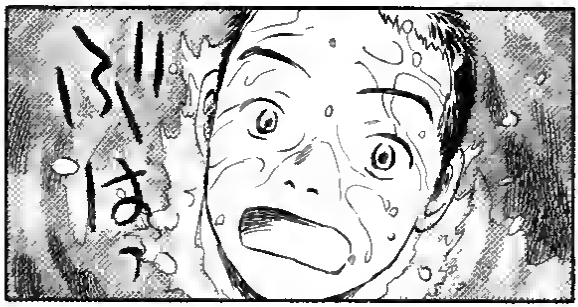
WHAAAT, QUIT WHILE YOU'RE AHEAD.
YEAH, YOU USED TO NOT EVEN BE ABLE TO SWIM!
NOT ANYMORE, THOUGH!
DON'T FORCE YOUR-SELF!
IF YOU'RE GONNA QUIT, JUST STOP NOW!

...I'LL BE FINE. THIS... IS NOTHING.
I...
I DON'T HAVE ANY-THING...
TO BE AFRAID OF ANY-MORE...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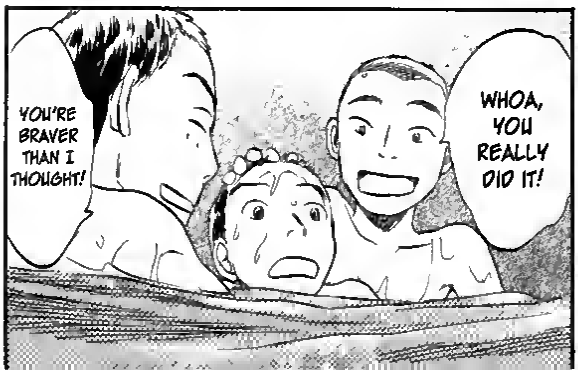
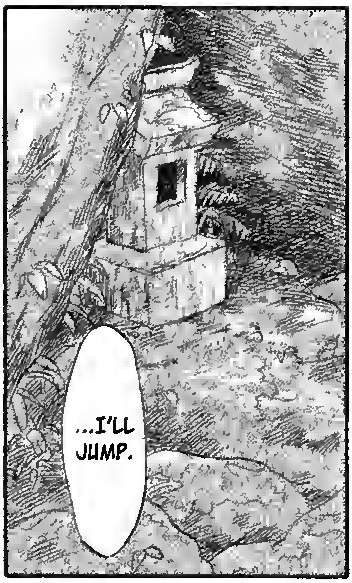
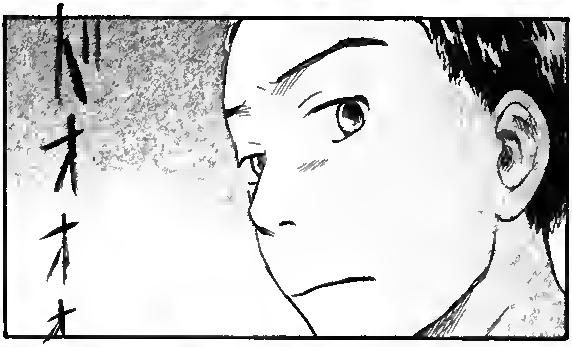
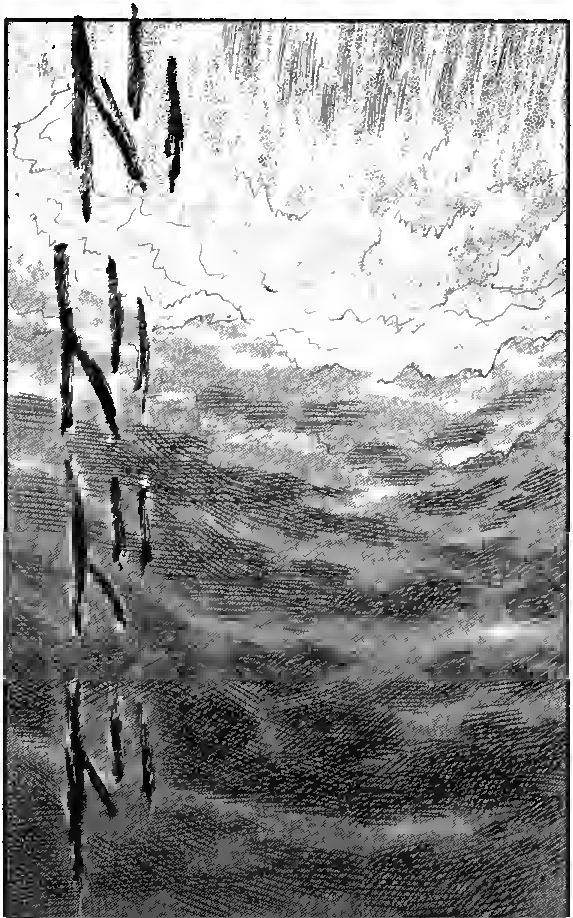

YOU'RE BRAVER THAN I THOUGHT!
WHOA, YOU REALLY DID IT!

Yahoo!!
IT WASN'T AS BAD AS I THOUGHT!
YOU SAID IT!
HEY,
WHY DON'T WE TRY SWIMMING OVER THERE TODAY?
BUT THIS IS...
WHAT, YOU SCARED?
IS IT REALLY ALRIGHT TO SWIM HERE?
IT'S FINE.
JUST AS LONG AS YOU DON'T GO TELLING THE ADULTS.
NO NEED TO PUSH YOURSELF THEN,
I MEAN, YOU WERE ONLY FINALLY ABLE TO WORK UP THE COURAGE TO JUMP TODAY.
I-IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!

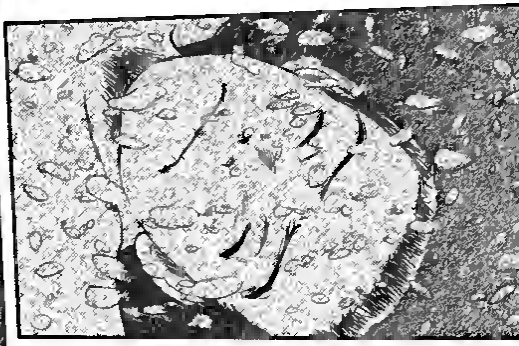

...I'LL JUMP.

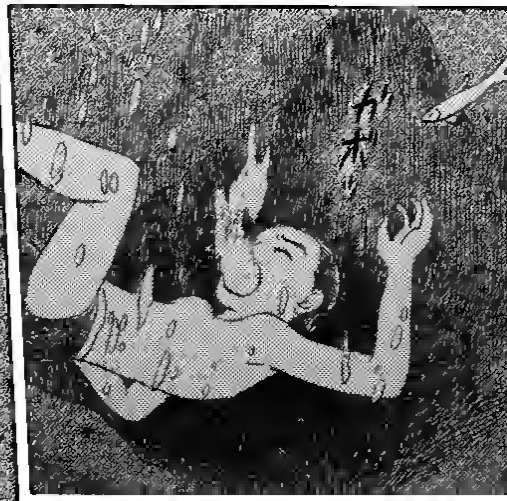
THEN YOU WON'T MIND JUMPING IN, RIGHT?
OH, REALLY?





HURRY UP!
IS HE REALLY GONNA JUMP?
COME ON!
.....!
HEYYY!
YOU'RE JUMPING TOO CLOSE TO THE WATERFALL!

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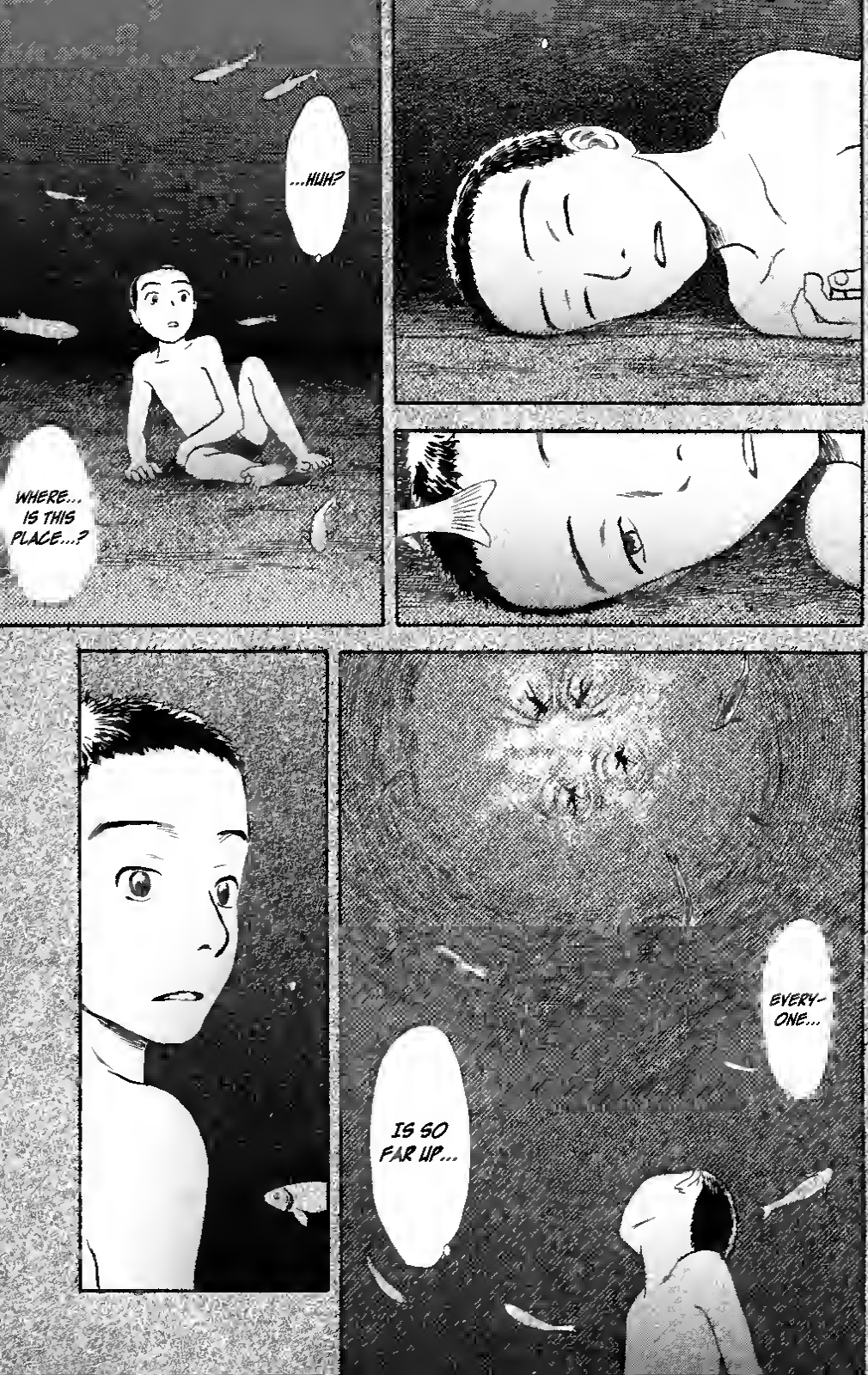
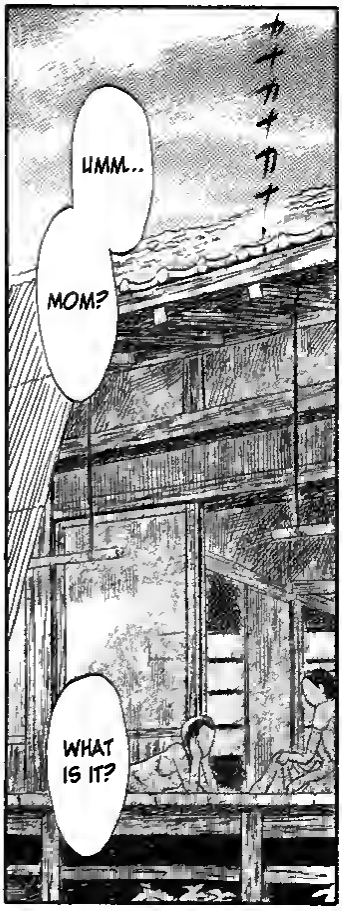

...HUH?
WHERE... IS THIS PLACE...?
EVERY-ONE...
IS SO FAR UP...

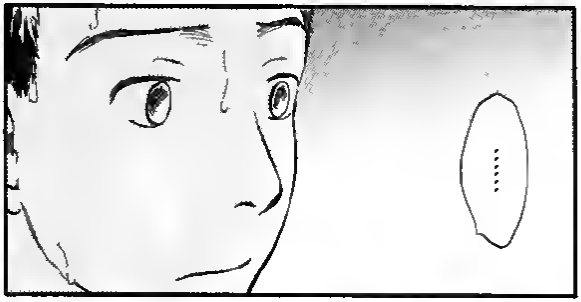
WHAT...?
!!

!!
HE'S AWAKE!!
WHEWWW!
TOLD YOU NOT TO PUSH YOURSELF, YOU IDIOT.
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO EGGED HIM ON!
...THERE WAS SOME-THING HUGE...

UH...
WHA-!
YOU TOO, MASARU.

YOU'RE STILL A LITTLE YOUNG FOR THIS PLACE.
WHATEVER IT IS, I DON'T WANT YOU COMING HERE AGAIN FOR AWHILE.
HUH?
WHAT, LIKE A FISH OR SOME-THING?
YEAH.
NO, THAT'S NOT IT...


UMM..
MOM?
WHAT IS IT?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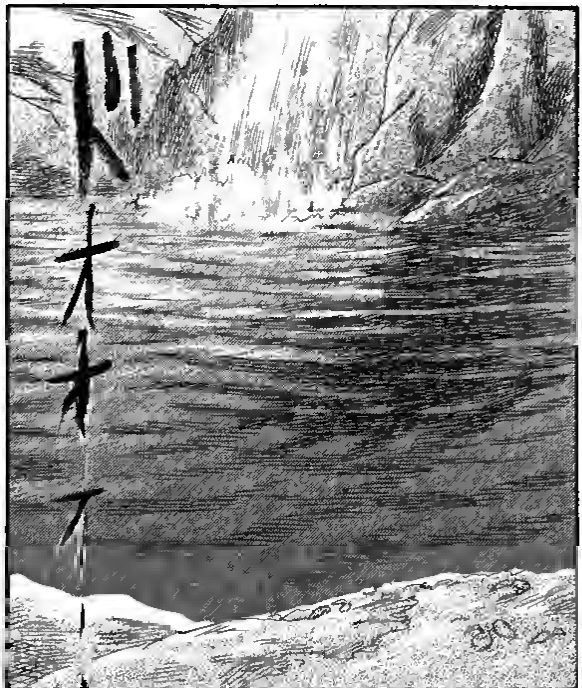


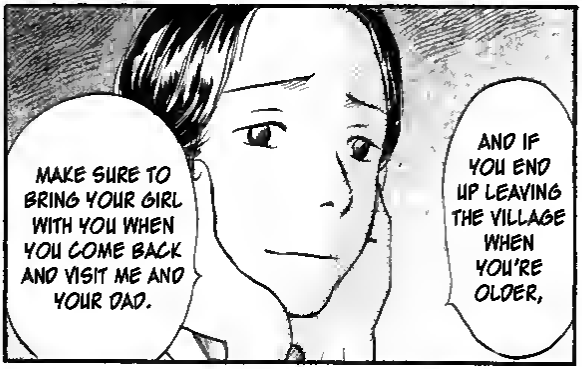
DO YOU MEAN THE DRAGON GOD OF THE WATERFALL?
HMM?
YEAH.
DO YOU THINK...
DRAGONS REALLY EXIST?
REALLY!?
IN WHAT FORM!?
THERE'S A STORY OF THE DRAGON GOD COMING TO THE VILLAGE LONG AGO.
HMM...
WELL, I WONDER ...
...WHAT? WHY?
AND FELL IN LOVE WITH A MAN FROM THE VILLAGE.
THE DRAGON DISGUISED ITSELF AS A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN,

HMM...
SO THERE'S NO ONE WHO'S ACTUALLY SEEN THE DRAGON?
WELL, WHO KNOWS FOR SURE...
BUT, THE CHILD OF THE DRAGON MIGHT STILL BE AMONG THE VILLAGE EVEN TODAY.
HUH?
AND THAT CHILD GREW UP,
AND HAD CHILDREN OF HIS OWN... AND THAT CONTINUED ON AS THE VILLAGE GREW TO THE SIZE IT IS TODAY...
EVEN I, YOUR FATHER, OR YOU COULD BE THE DRAGON'S CHILDREN.
THAT DRAGON EVENTUALLY MARRIED THE MAN AND HAD A CHILD.
REALLY?
WELL, IT'S JUST AN OLD TALE,
NO ONE REALLY KNOWS FOR SURE.

SUMIO,
WHEN YOU GROW UP, I'LL GIVE YOU SOMETHING AMAZING.
I SEE...
SO MAYBE THERE REALLY WAS A DRAGON...
LONG AGO,
YOUR FATHER GAVE THIS THING TO ME,
TO ASK ME IF I WOULD MARRY HIM.
HMM?
AND THIS THING MIGHT BE AN ORB LEFT BY THE DRAGON.
WHAT!? I WANT TO SEE IT!
NOPE, NOT JUST YET.
...I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S REALLY THE DRAGON'S ORB,
BUT TO YOUR MOTHER, IT TRULY IS A PRECIOUS TREASURE.
SUMIO, WHEN YOU GROW UP,
YOU SHOULD GIVE IT TO THE GIRL YOU WANT TO MARRY AS WELL.

I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE.
I'M GOING TO LIVE FOREVER AND EVER WITH MOM AND DAD.

YOU SAY THAT NOW, BUT THINGS WILL BE DIFFERENT WHEN YOU GROW UP.
ALL I NEED IS MOM AND THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH.
...I DON'T NEED A GIRL.


MAKE SURE TO BRING YOUR GIRL WITH YOU WHEN YOU COME BACK AND VISIT ME AND YOUR DAD.
AND IF YOU END UP LEAVING THE VILLAGE WHEN YOU'RE OLDER,

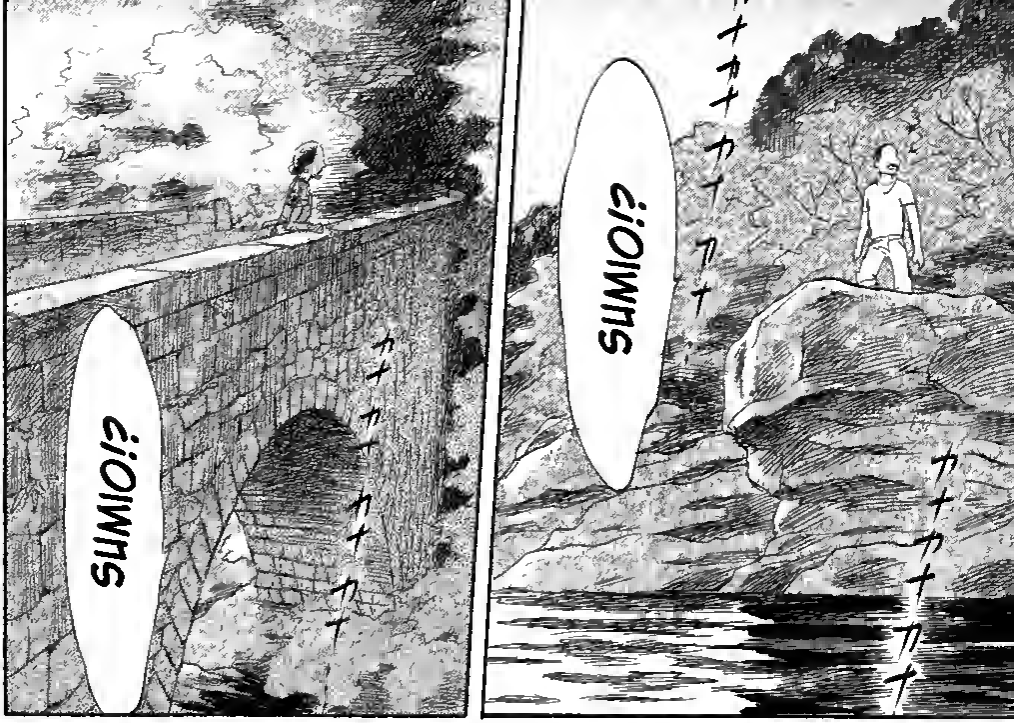
AGHH!
L-LET GO, MOM!

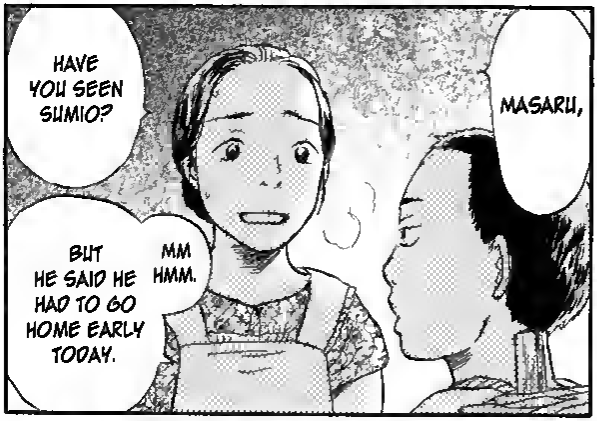
AND HELP DAD WITH THE FIELD AND FISHING.

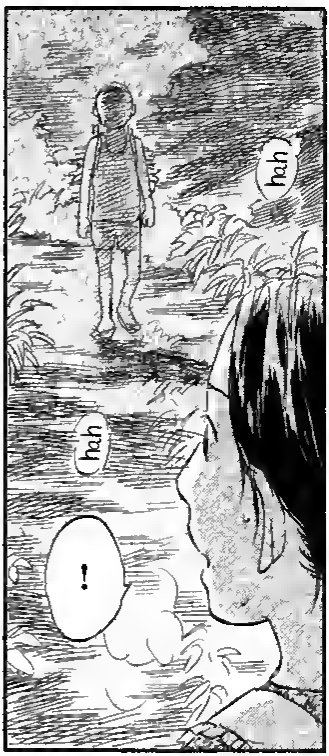
BUT THINGS ARE STILL GOOD FOR THE TIME BEING...
MOM, LET GO!
HOW NICE IT'D BE IF THAT WERE TRUE...
WHAT'S WRONG? THIS IS GETTING STUFFY AND HOT!

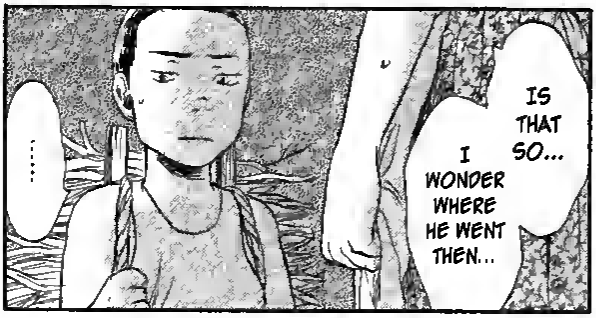
ぎゃあ
AHH, DON'T PUSH ME!
GET ON!
ぎゃあ
ぎゃはは
IDIOT.
GO OVER THERE.
WE'RE SINK-ING!
SUMIO!
WHERE YA GOING?
SEE YA THEN!
SEE YOU TOMOR-ROW!
I HAVE TO GO HOME AND HEAT UP THE BATH.
SO I'LL BE GOING EARLY TODAY.

カナカナカナ
ガラガラ
I'M HOME.
カナカナカナ
カナカナカナ
WELCOME BACK, DEAR.
IS SUMIO STILL AT THE RIVER?
NO,
ALL THE KIDS ALREADY LEFT FOR HOME...
カナカナカナ
カナカナカナ


SUMIO?
SUMIO?


MASARU,
HAVE YOU SEEN SUMIO?
MM HMM.
BUT HE SAID HE HAD TO GO HOME EARLY TODAY.


huh
huh
!


IS THAT SO...
I WONDER WHERE HE WENT THEN...
.....

UMM...
A COUPLE DAYS AGO...
SUMIO SAID STUFF ABOUT SEEING SOMETHING AT THE DRAGON WATERFALLS...
SUMIO!
WHERE ARE YOU!?
WE WON'T GET MAD, SO JUST COME OUT!

……!!
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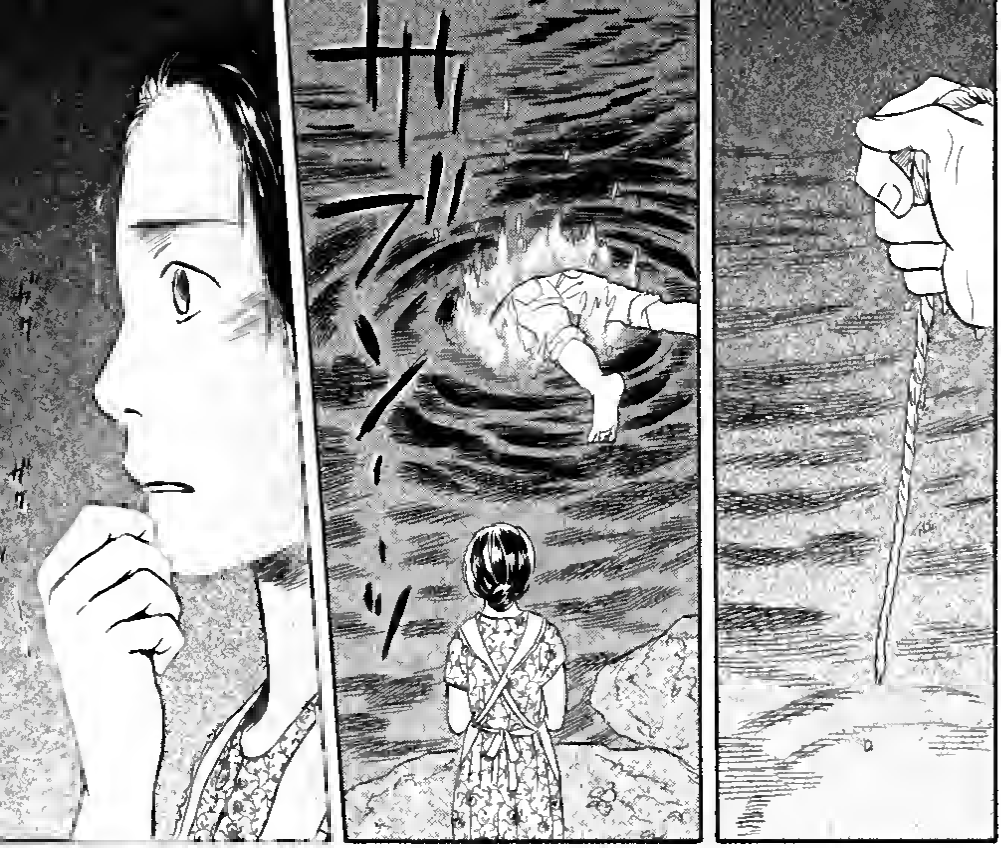
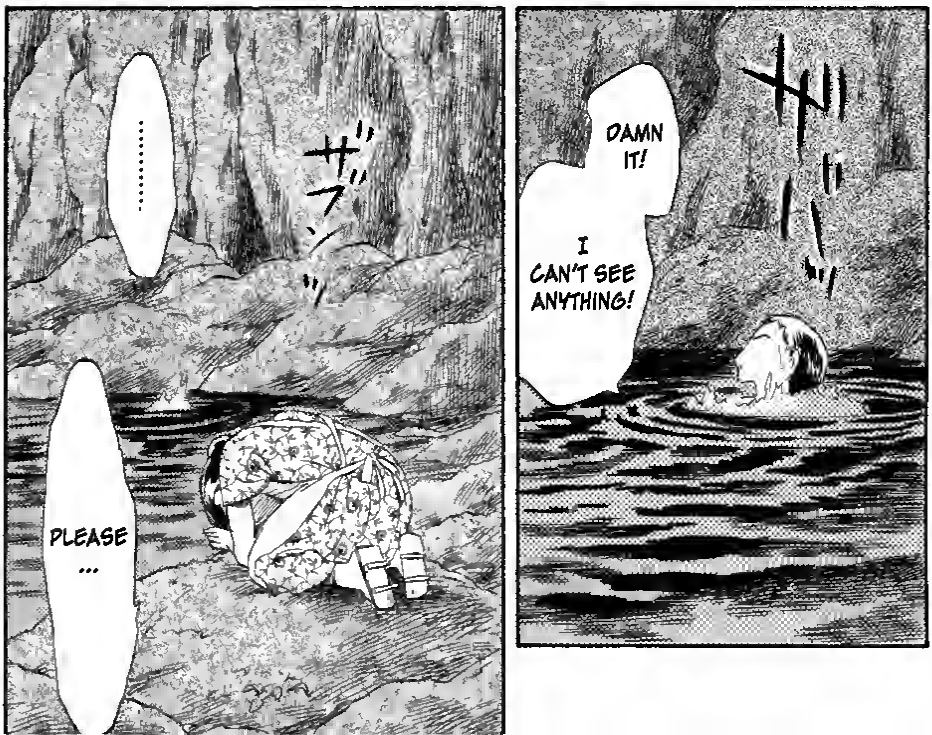
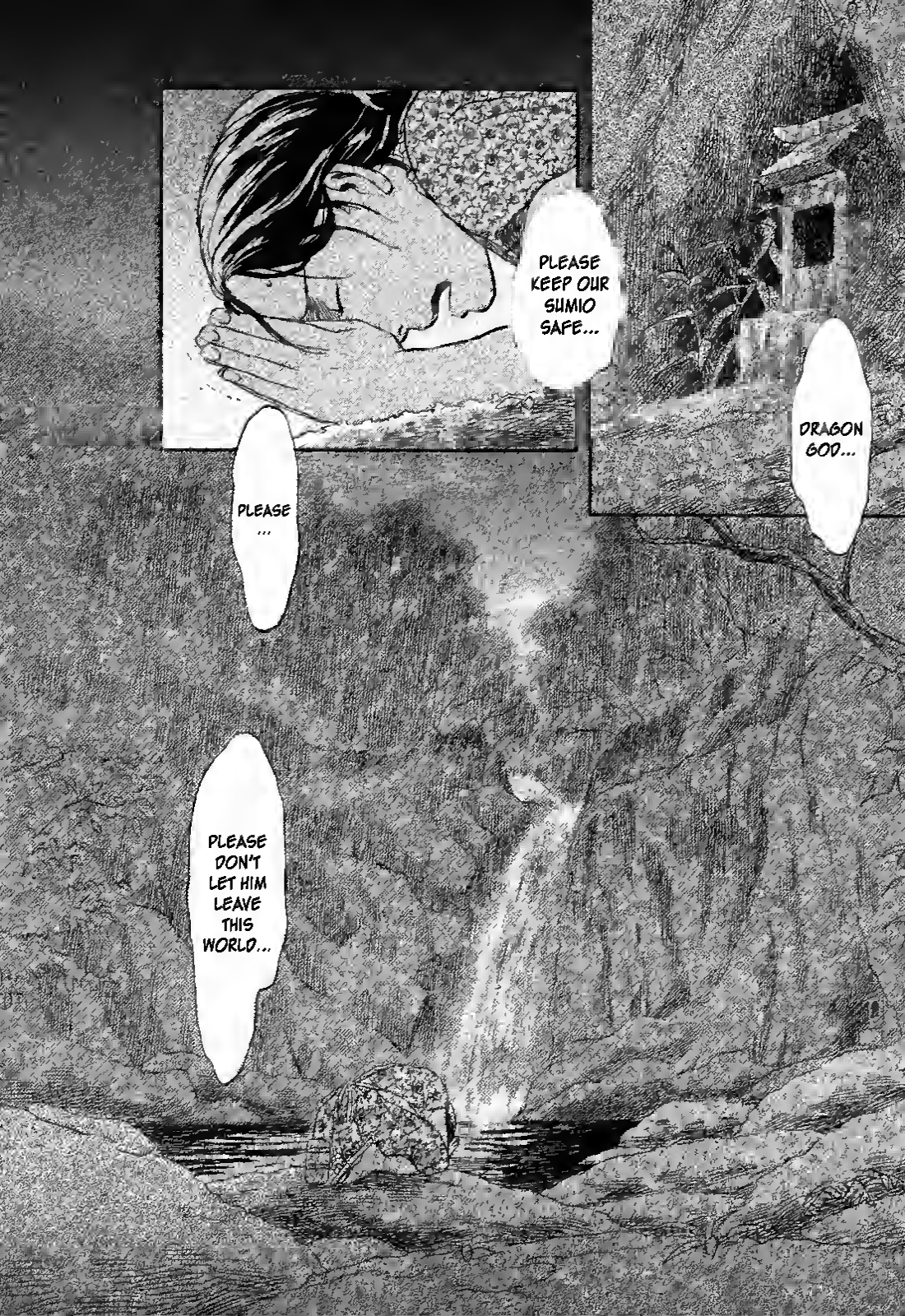



DAMN IT!
I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING!
.....
PLEASE ...


PLEASE KEEP OUR SUMIO SAFE...
DRAGON GOD...
PLEASE ...
PLEASE DON'T LET HIM LEAVE THIS WORLD...

Chapter 04
End

Chapter 05
Flood

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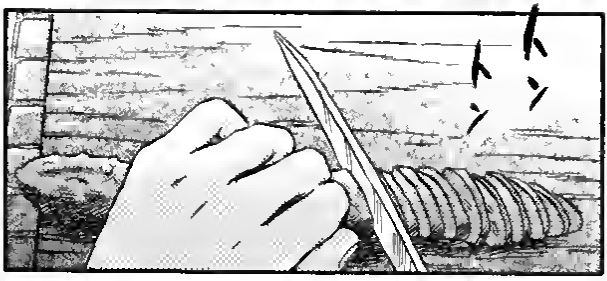
HAHAHA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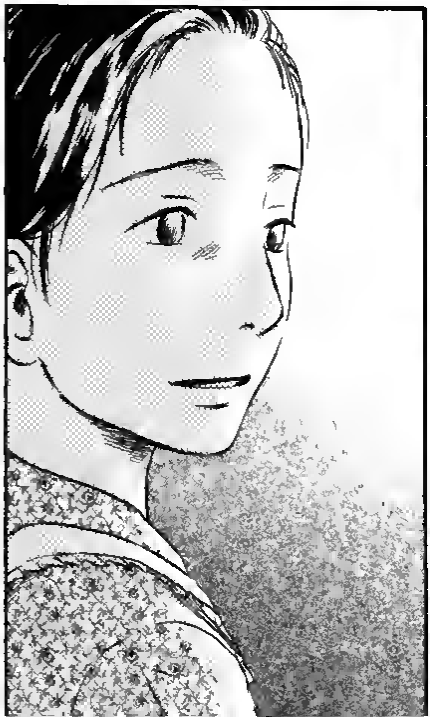
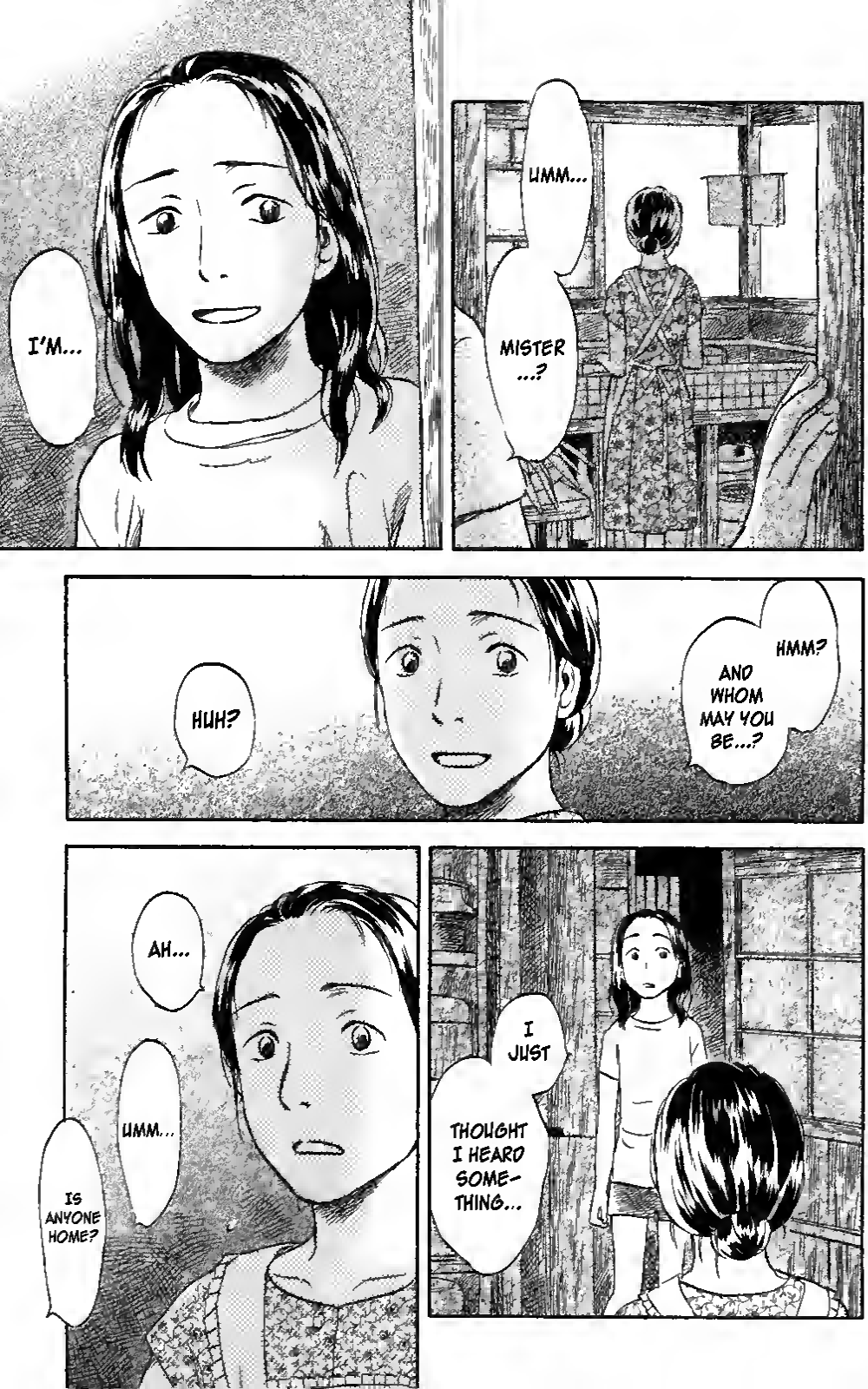
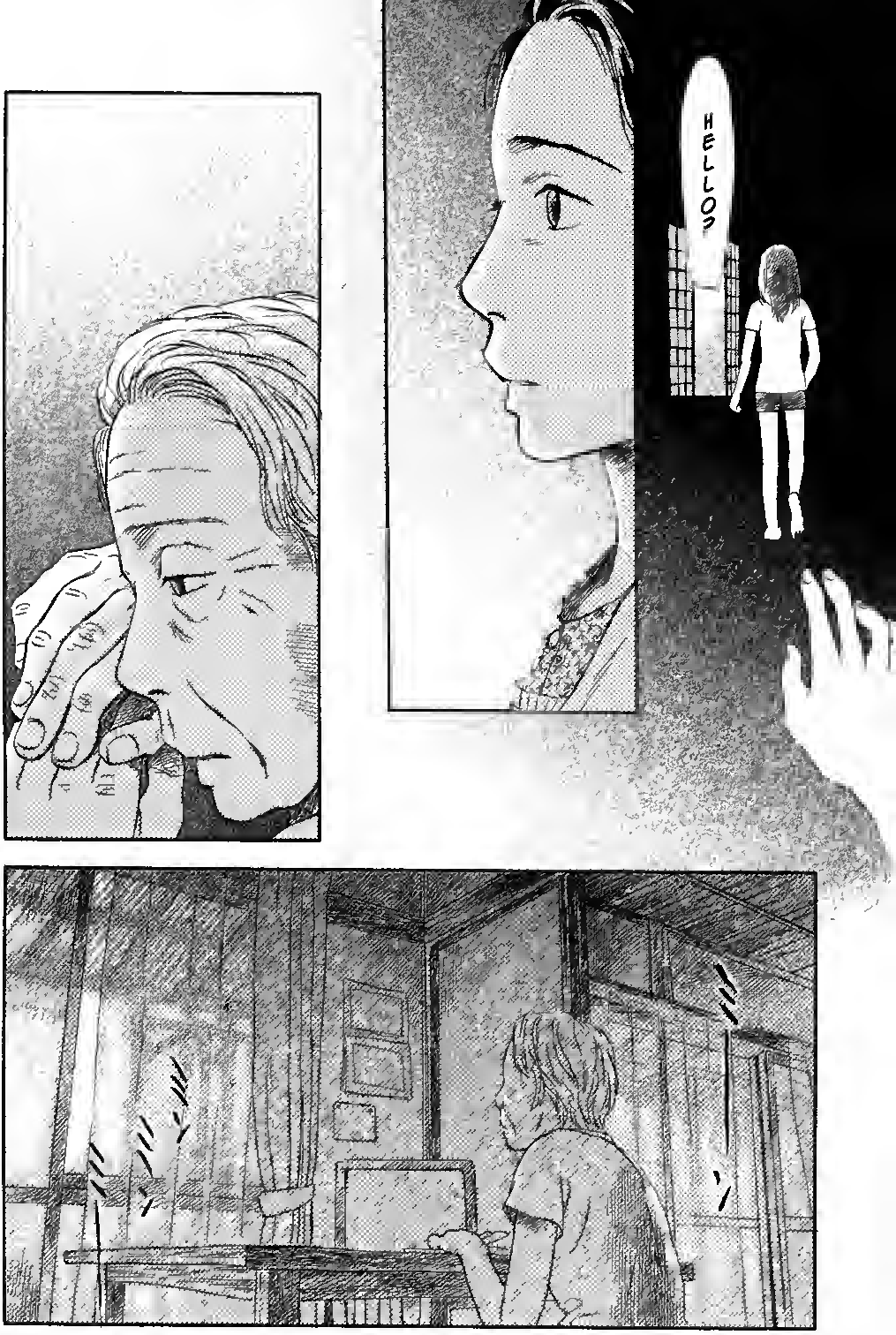
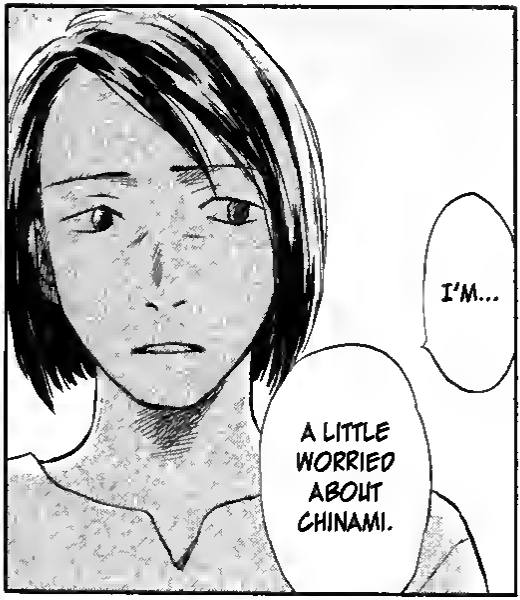


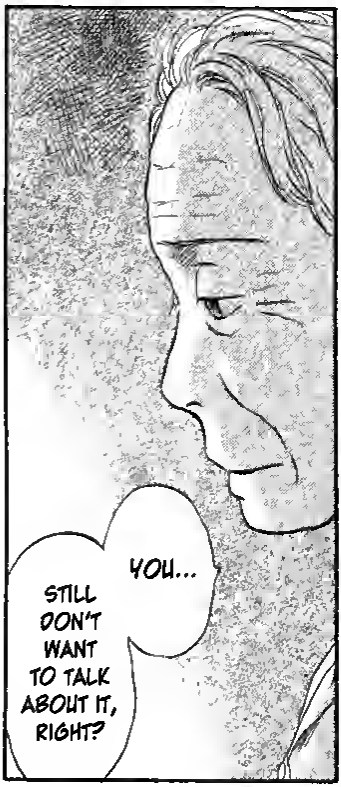

I'M...
UMM...
MISTER ...?
HUH?
HMM?
AND WHOM MAY YOU BE...?
AH...
UMM...
IS ANYONE HOME?
I JUST THOUGHT I HEARD SOME-THING...

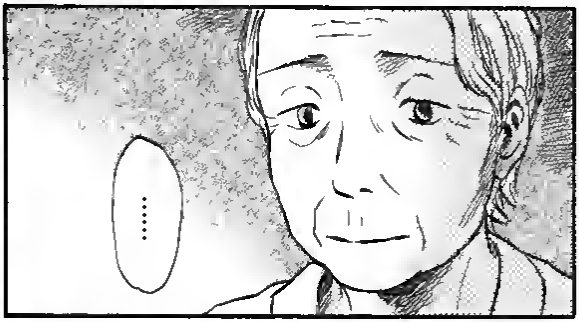

HELLO?

MOTHER.
OH, KAZUMI, GOOD TO SEE YOU HOME.
I DON'T USUALLY SEE BOTH OF YOU DROP BY.
Come in, then.
Hello
WHERE'S CHINAMI?

DID YOU...
TELL HER ABOUT THE VILLAGE?


I'M...
A LITTLE WORRIED ABOUT CHINAMI.


YOU...
STILL DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT, RIGHT?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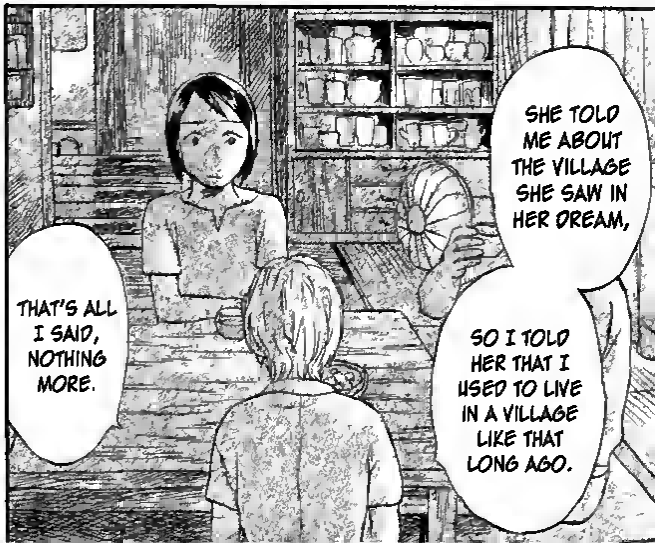
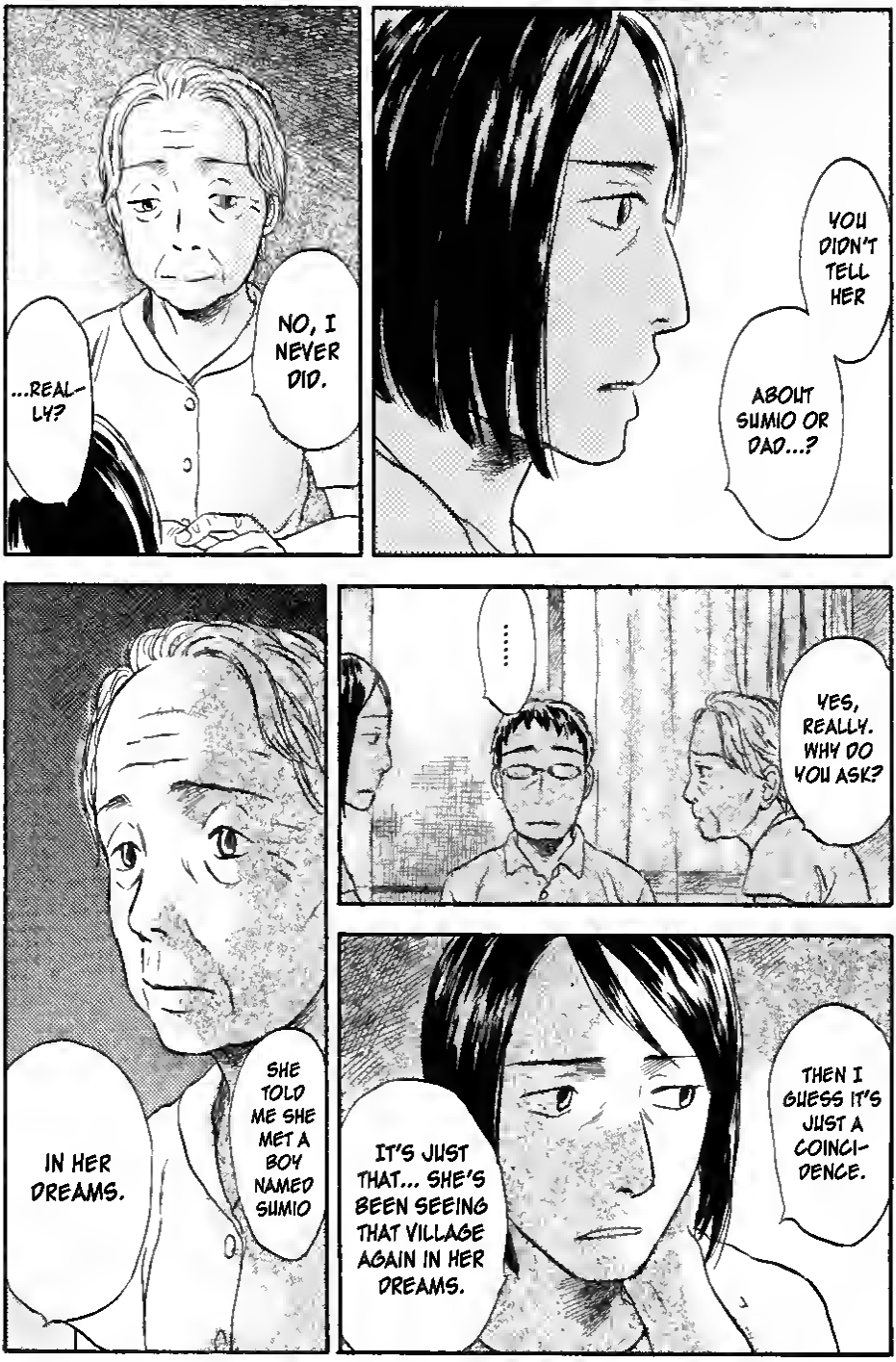

SHE TOLD ME ABOUT THE VILLAGE SHE SAW IN HER DREAM,
SO I TOLD HER THAT I USED TO LIVE IN A VILLAGE LIKE THAT LONG AGO.
THAT'S ALL I SAID, NOTHING MORE.

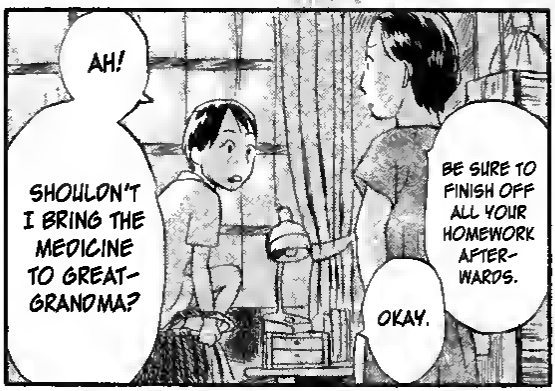

...REAL-LY?
NO, I NEVER DID.
YOU DIDN'T TELL HER
ABOUT SUMIO OR DAD...?
.....
YES, REALLY. WHY DO YOU ASK?
SHE TOLD ME SHE MET A BOY NAMED SUMIO
IN HER DREAMS.
IT'S JUST THAT... SHE'S BEEN SEEING THAT VILLAGE AGAIN IN HER DREAMS.
THEN I GUESS IT'S JUST A COINCI-DENCE.

..HEY,
WHY IS IT THAT YOU DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT SO MUCH?
THAT'S QUITE A STRANGE COINCI-DENCE...
IS THAT SO...
IT'S JUST...
THAT I CAN'T QUITE PUT IT INTO WORDS YET...
I KNOW IT'S QUITE SAD AND ALL...
I'M NOT TRYING TO HIDE ANYTHING...
BUT IT'S NOTHING TO HIDE ABOUT...

I THOUGHT THAT ONCE CHINAMI GREW UP A BIT, IT'D BE EASIER FOR HER TO UNDERSTAND,
SO I WOULD BE ABLE TO TELL HER THEN...
...BUT,
AS TIME PASSED, IT BECAME EVEN HARDER TO TALK ABOUT...
I STILL...
DON'T KNOW...
EXACTLY HOW TO TALK ABOUT THAT VILLAGE...

SEE YA THEN, KAZUMI.
YEAH, SEE YOU LATER!
たた
山ダム建設絶対反対!!

I'M HOME!
ガラッ
Oppose the dam construction
Defend our village, oppose the dam
ダム反対
たたた


AH!
SHOULDN'T I BRING THE MEDICINE TO GREAT-GRANDMA?
BE SURE TO FINISH OFF ALL YOUR HOMEWORK AFTER-WARDS.
OKAY.

WELCOME BACK.
I'M GOING TO THE RIVER WITH A FRIEND.

GO TAKE THIS TO HER.
... ALRIGHT, THEN.

DON'T WORRY, I WON'T BE A BOTHER.
BUT ALL THE OTHER VILLAGERS SHOULD BE GATHERED AT HER HOUSE TODAY...

BE CAREFUL!
OKAY, MOM!
NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES WE SEND THEM AWAY, THEY KEEP ON COMING BACK.
JUST HOW LONG ... WILL THIS CONTINUE ON FOR...?
AT THIS RATE, THEY'RE GOING TO BOTHER US WITH OUR WORK AND WE WON'T EVEN BE ABLE TO EAT.
WE'RE AT OUR LIMITS...
.....
WE'LL HAVE A FRANK DISCUSSION AND SETTLE IT ONCE AND FOR ALL...
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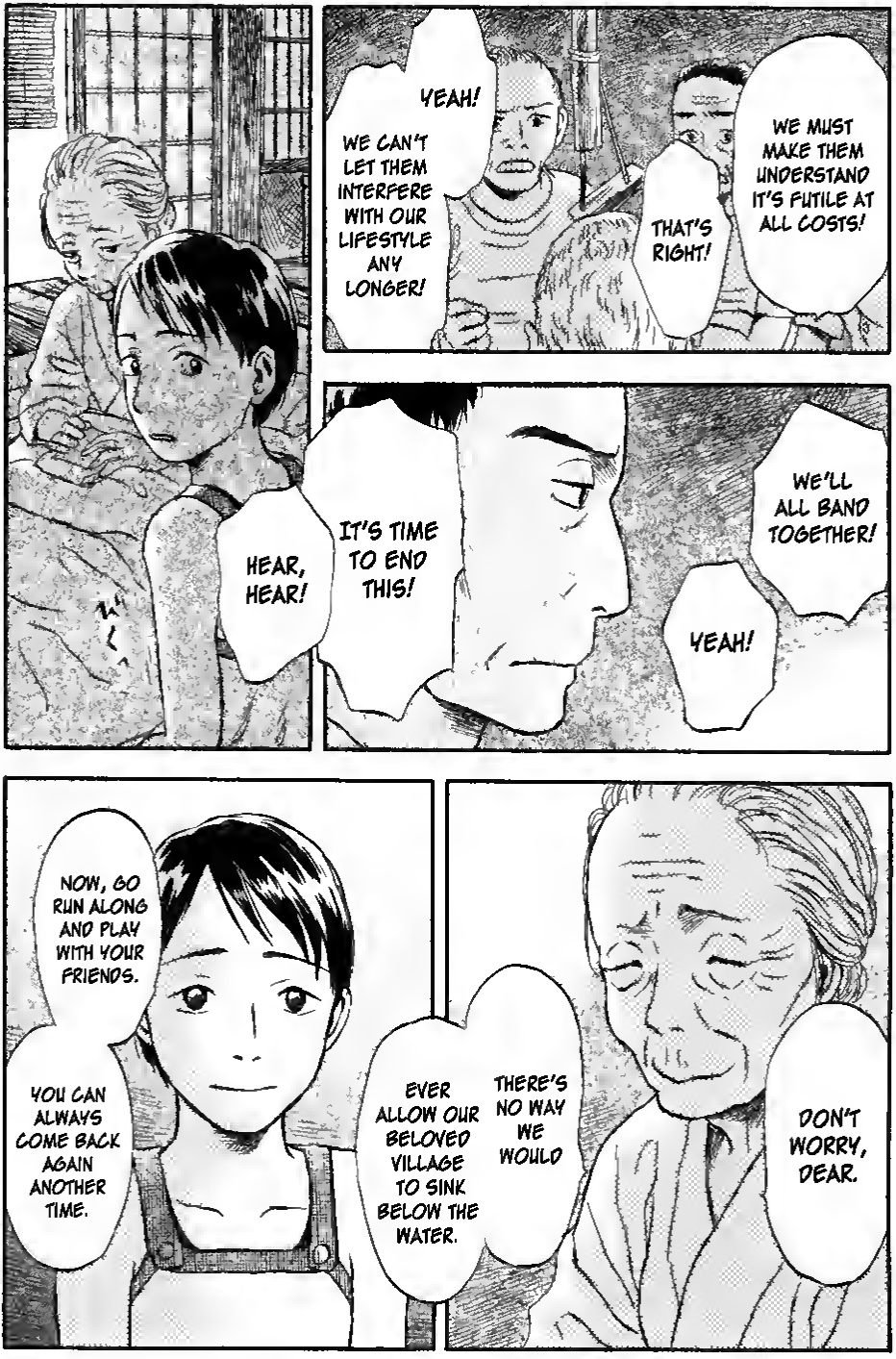
YEAH!
WE CAN'T LET THEM INTERFERE WITH OUR LIFESTYLE ANY LONGER!
THAT'S RIGHT!
WE MUST MAKE THEM UNDERSTAND IT'S FUTILE AT ALL COSTS!
HEAR, HEAR!
IT'S TIME TO END THIS!
YEAH!
WE'LL ALL BAND TOGETHER!
NOW, GO RUN ALONG AND PLAY WITH YOUR FRIENDS.
YOU CAN ALWAYS COME BACK AGAIN ANOTHER TIME.
EVER ALLOW OUR BELOVED VILLAGE TO SINK BELOW THE WATER.
THERE'S NO WAY WE WOULD
DON'T WORRY, DEAR.

KAZUMI,
SO YOU WERE HERE?
OH HI, DAD.
ARE YOU HEADED TO THE RIVER NOW?
YUP.
WE'RE GOING TO THE DIVING SPOT WITH THE BIG ROCK.
I SEE.
KAZUMI!
AH! I'M GOING TO GO NOW, DAD!
...BE SURE NOT TO PLAY AT THE WATERFALL.
YEAH,
I KNOW.

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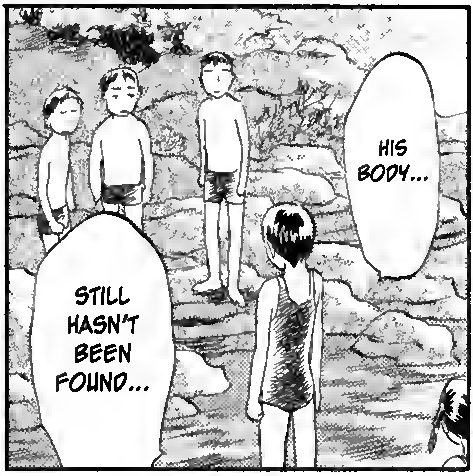
WHA-!?
SERIOUS-LY!?
I REALLY SAW IT BY THE WATERFALL YESTERDAY!
YEAH, I'M TELLING YOU,
SO HE REALLY SHOWS UP THERE?
YEAH, YOU WAHNA GO SEE?
SSH!
AH!
OH YEAH, MY BROTHER TOLD ME ABOUT THAT.
WASN'T HE KAZUMI'S BROTHER?
AH, MAYBE IT'S THE GHOST OF THAT KID WHO DIED AT THE WATERFALL.

I WON'T FORGIVE YOU IF YOU'RE MAKING STUFF UP!
I-IT'S NOT LIKE HE WAS A SCARY GHOST OR ANYTHING...
...AH,

I'M NOT LYING.
THAT SIXTH GRADER SAID HE SAW IT TOO,
DIDN'T HE?
YEAH ...
HE SAID THAT WHILE HE WAS PLAYING AT THE WATERFALL WITH HIS FRIENDS, THERE WAS SUDDENLY ONE OTHER PERSON THERE HE DIDN'T RECOGNIZE...
RIGHT?

JUST DON'T...
GO AROUND TALKING ABOUT STUPID RUMOURS...
MY DAD DOESN'T THINK HE'S DEAD...

...AH!
KAZUMI!
KAZUMI!


HIS BODY...
STILL HASN'T BEEN FOUND...

HMPH!
BOYS ARE SO STUPID!
THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS GHOSTS!

HARU!
YOU'RE BACK!
I... HEARD THE VILLAGE WAS IN TROUBLE...
I WANTED TO COME BACK FOR LONGER,
BUT MY HUSBAND ONLY AGREED TO LET ME STAY HERE FOR A LITTLE WHILE.
I'M FINE. I'M SORRY I CAN'T STAY FOR LONG, THOUGH.
HOW'RE YOU DOING THESE DAYS?

YOU COULDN'T HAVE COME AT A BETTER TIME.
...I'M SO GLAD TO HAVE YOU BACK HERE.
AND SO I'VE COME BACK WITH MY YOUNGEST SON TO HELP OUT WITH THE PROTEST.
HAHA, YOU'RE RIGHT!
DON'T WORRY, WE WON'T LOSE, KIYO.
AFTER ALL, I'M BACK HERE NOW!!!
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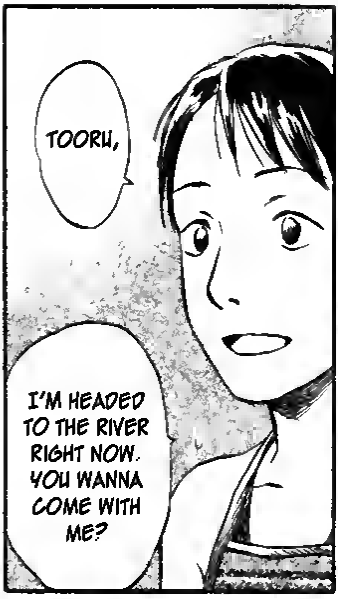
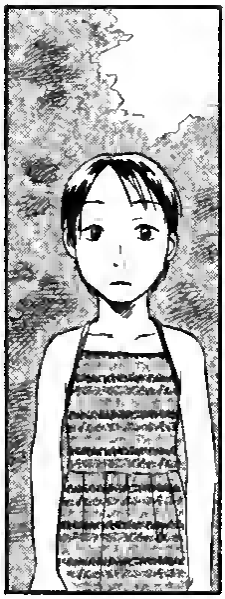

TOORU,
I'M HEADED TO THE RIVER RIGHT NOW. YOU WANNA COME WITH ME?



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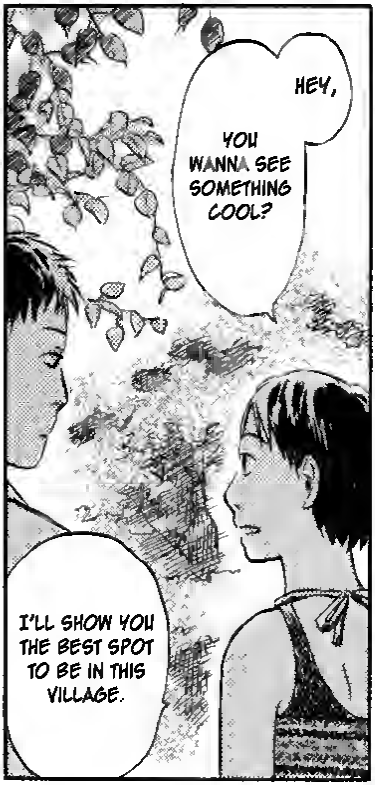
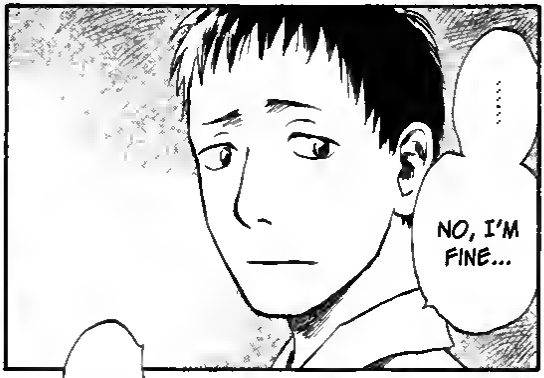
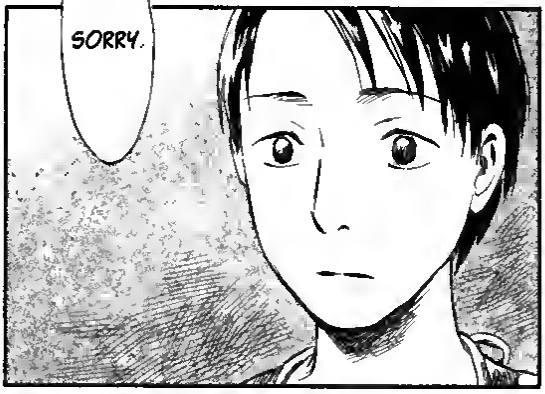

HEY,
YOU WANNA SEE SOMETHING COOL?
I'LL SHOW YOU THE BEST SPOT TO BE IN THIS VILLAGE.


.....
NO, I'M FINE...


SORRY.

ゴオオオ
WELL, WHAT DO YOU THINK?
FEELS GREAT HERE, RIGHT?
AMAZING.
I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH A BEAUTIFUL WATERFALL BEFORE.
HMM...
BUT I COME HERE FROM TIME TO TIME BECAUSE IT FEELS NICE.
...THE OTHER BOYS IN THE VILLAGE SAY THAT A GHOST APPEARS HERE,

ONE OF THE MIDDLE SCHOOLERS SAID THAT
MY MOM'S JUST A SPY SENT BY THE DAM CONSTRUCTION PEOPLE...
.....
IT'S KIND OF MYSTERI-OUS...
BUT WHEN I LOOK INTO THE WATERFALL, I SOMEHOW FEEL AT EASE...
THEY SAID THAT'S WHAT THEIR PARENTS SAY...
I... WANT TO BELIEVE IN MY MOM, BUT...
...ISN'T THIS VILLAGE NICE...?

MY MOM SAID TO ME ONCE,
THAT SHE'S BEEN GOOD FRIENDS WITH YOUR MOM EVER SINCE THEY WERE KIDS,
AND THAT HARUMI'S ALWAYS BEEN THE GOOD UPRIGHT GIRL AS THE CLASS PRESIDENT.
SO THERE'S NO WAY YOUR MOM COULD BE A SPY.
.....
THAT'S RIGHT...
THIS IS... HER HOME...
THANKS,
KAZUMI...
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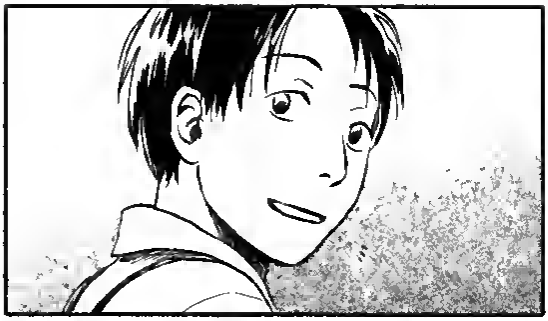
コーン...



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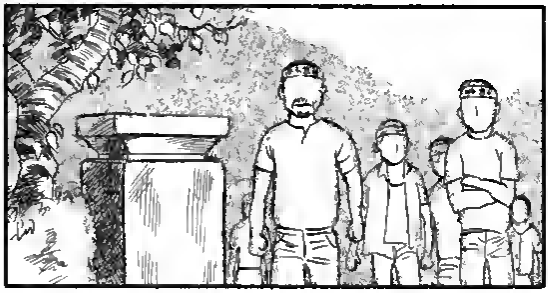

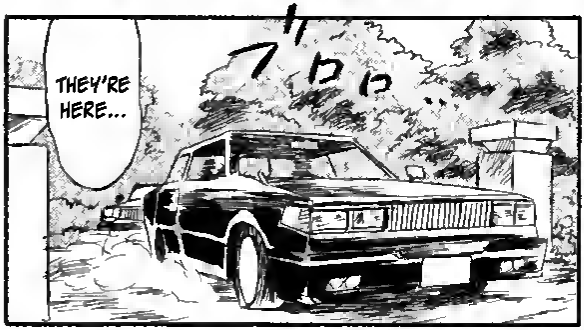
THEY'RE HERE...
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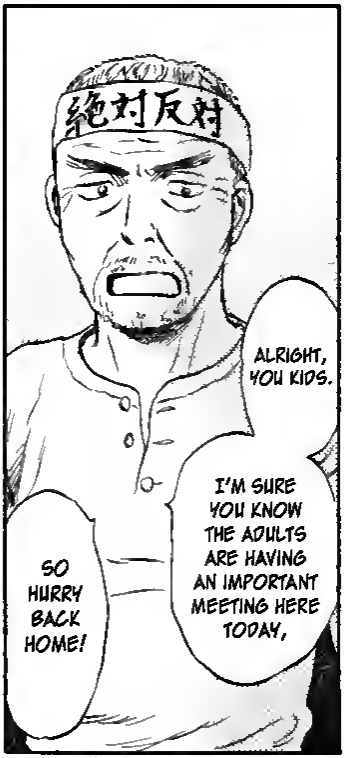
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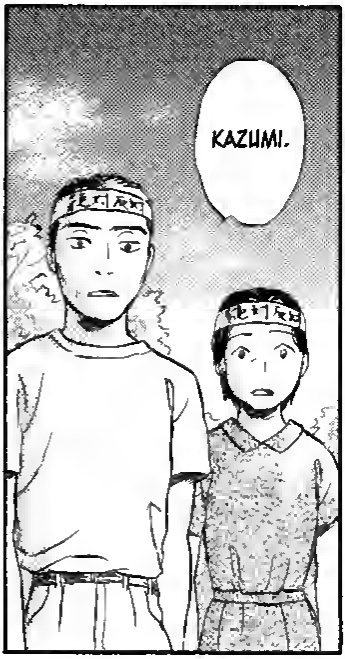
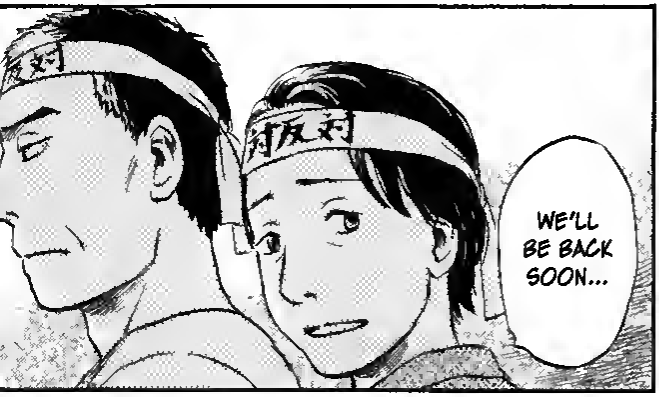
ALRIGHT, YOU KIDS.
I'M SURE YOU KNOW THE ADULTS ARE HAVING AN IMPORTANT MEETING HERE TODAY,
SO HURRY BACK HOME!

HMPH, SO THEY'VE ALL COME...
BUT WE WON'T LOSE IN NUMBERS!
THAT'S RIGHT!

OKAY...
GO AND WAIT BACK HOME.


KAZUMI.


WE'LL BE BACK SOON...

WE'RE GOING TO PUT AN END TO THIS ONCE AND FOR ALL!
JUST GIVE UP ALREADY!
THAT'S RIGHT!

WE...
ALRIGHT THEN,
IF YOU WOULD ALL KINDLY LISTEN TO US FIRST...

WE WON'T HAND OVER OUR VILLAGE!
WE'LL NEVER SELL OUR LAND!
EVERYONE!
WE HAVE A VERY IMPORTANT NOTICE THAT WE MUST INFORM YOU OF TODAY.
AS OF YESTERDAY,
THE CONSTRUCTION OF MIYAMA DAM HAS BEEN APPROVED ACCORDING TO THE LAW CONCERNING SPECIAL MEASURES FOR UPSTREAM AREA DEVELOPMENT.
...WHAT!?
WHO GAVE YOU THE RIGHT TO DECIDE!?
AFTER TODAY, WE SHALL NOT COME BACK AGAIN HERE PERSONALLY.
SO PLEASE PASS ALONG THESE PRINTOUTS...
WE SHALL NOW EXPLAIN THE DETAILS,
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS!?
WE WON'T KEEP QUIET ABOUT THIS!

HMM, PRETTY GOOD OFFER.
BUT WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO AFTER I LEAVE...?
WELL, WITH THAT MUCH MONEY, I RECKON YOU COULD BUY LAND SOMEWHERE ELSE...
HOW MUCH DOES YOUR PLACE COME OUT TO BE?
WELL, WITH OUR ONE HECTARE OF LAND...
IT'LL BE ENOUGH TO SEND ALL OF OUR KIDS TO UNIVERSITY.
YOU...!
TATSUMI!
ARE YOU REALLY FINE WITH LETTING THE FARMLAND THAT YOU'VE POURED YOUR BLOOD, SWEAT, AND TEARS OVER TURN INTO A SUNKEN WASTELAND!?

IT'S DESPI-CABLE!
CALM DOWN.
IT'S NOT LIKE I'VE ALREADY DECIDED TO SELL MY LAND OR ANYTHING...
TO EVEN TALK ABOUT
CONVERTING OUR ENTIRE WAY OF LIFE TO COLD HARD CASH IS...
くしゃ
WHA...!?
DO YOU FOOLS KNOW NO SHAME!?
S-
STOP!
THIS ISN'T JUST YOUR LAND WE'RE TALKING ABOUT HERE!
HE'S RIGHT!
THIS IS THE VILLAGE THAT OUR ANCESTORS BUILT!

JUST HAVING THESE THINGS IS GOING TO COME BETWEEN US ALL!
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HARUMI, WHAT ARE YOU...!?
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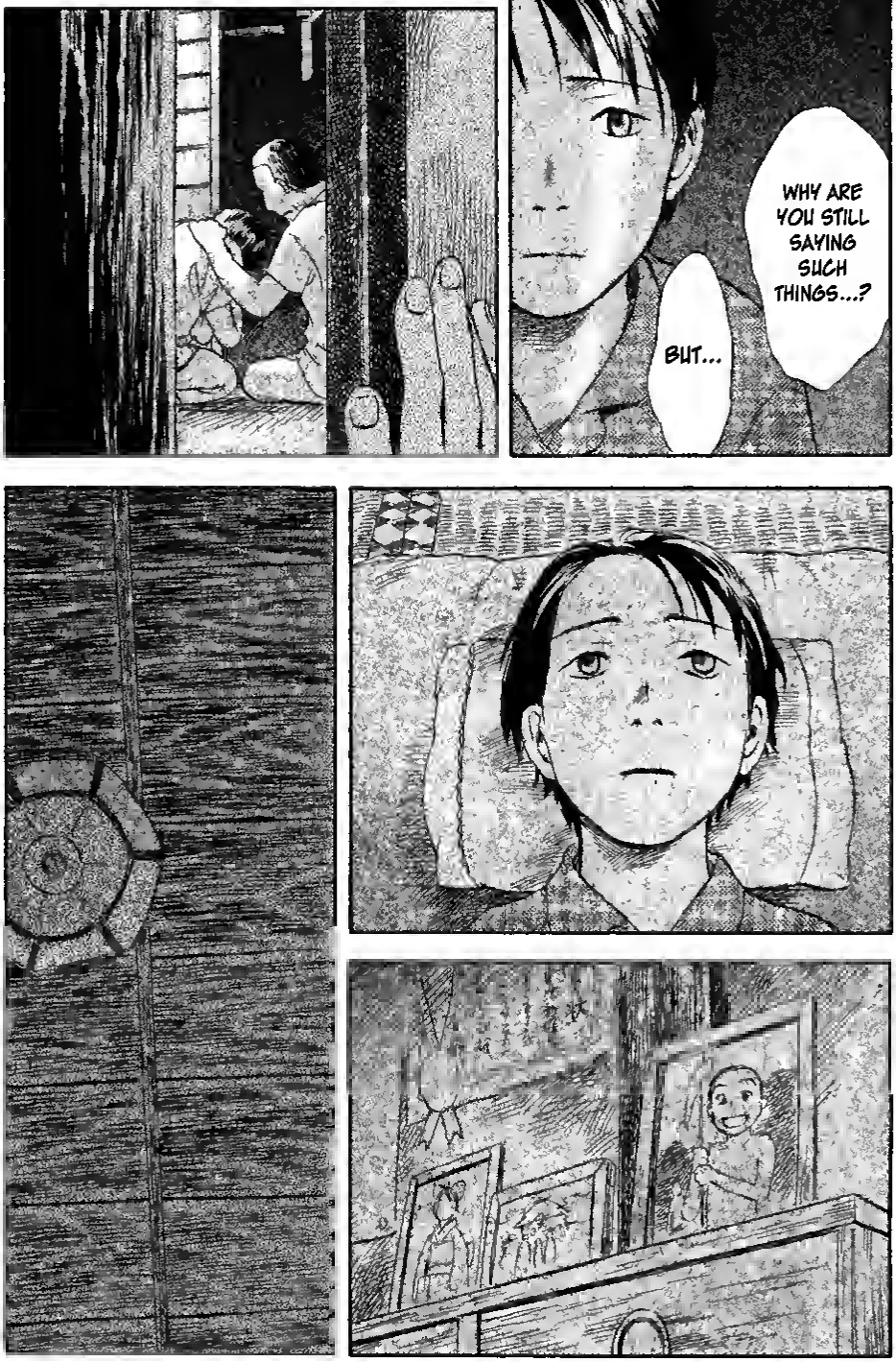
HA HA
HARU, YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT.
...YOU FEELING BETTER ABOUT ME, NOW?
HARU.
YEAH...
RIGHT, TATSUMI?
HA HA HA!
IF YOU BETRAY US, YOU WON'T GET AWAY SAFELY!
THAT HARUMI... JUST AS STRICT AS EVER...

IT'S FINE.
I ONLY CAME BACK AFTER SO LONG BECAUSE THINGS HAVEN'T BEEN GOING SO WELL WITH MY HUSBAND...
TO BE HONEST,
A PART OF YOU WAS WONDERING WHY I REALLY CAME BACK... AM I RIGHT?
...I KNOW,
IT'S JUST... WITH ALL THAT'S BEEN GOING ON LATELY, I MIGHT'VE BEEN A LITTLE SWAYED BY THOSE RUMOURS ABOUT YOU...
...SORRY.
YEAH...
I CAN'T JUST LET IT SINK UNDERWATER DUE TO SOME DAM...
...AND I'VE ONLY JUST REALIZED
HOW GOOD IT IS TO HAVE A PLACE TO RETURN TO...

...WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO US NOW...?
THERE'S NOTHING ANY OF US CAN DO ABOUT THAT...
EVERYONE HERE HAS THEIR OWN CIRCUM-STANCES
AND VALUE DIFFERENT THINGS...
IT'S HARD TO SAY...

IF THEY DAM UP THE RIVER...
THEN THE RIVER BOTTOM WILL BECOME BURIED UNDER MUD...
BUT NO MATTER WHAT, I'LL OPPOSE THE DAM TO THE VERY END.
.....
BUT WE'VE SEARCHED AS HARD AS WE COULD.
SUMIO ISN'T AT THE WATERFALL...
AND THE WATERFALL WILL BOTH BE BURIED FOREVER, UNDERNEATH THE MUD...
SUMIO...


WHY ARE YOU STILL SAYING SUCH THINGS...?
BUT...

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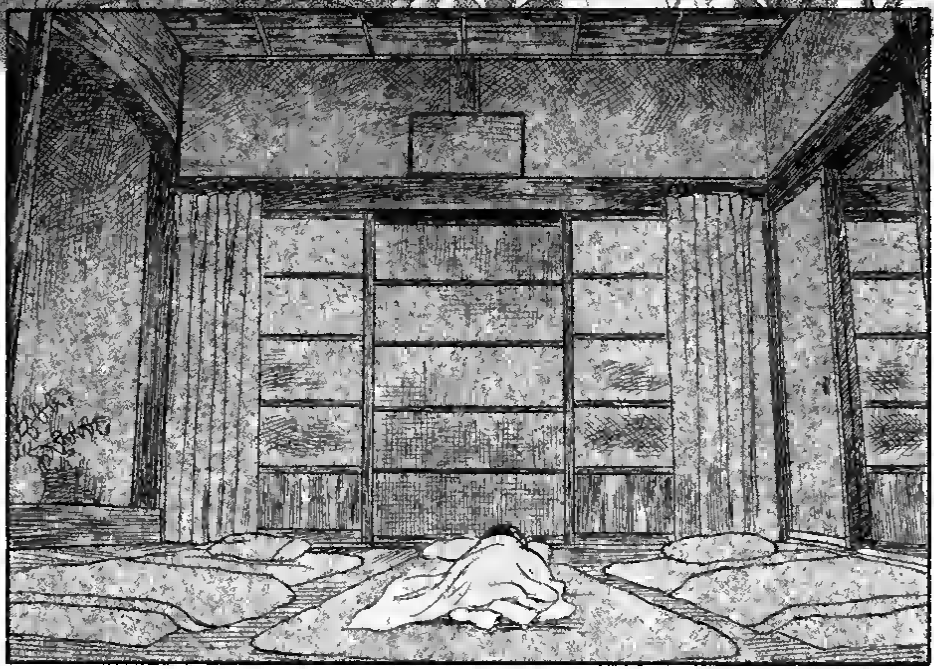

Chapter 05
End

Chapter 06
Firefly

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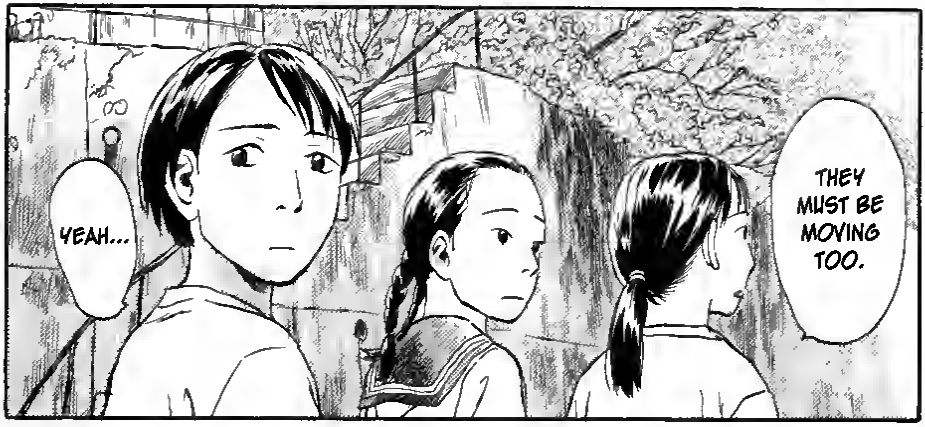
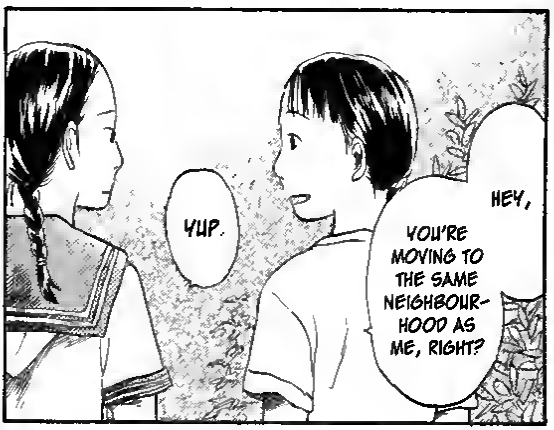
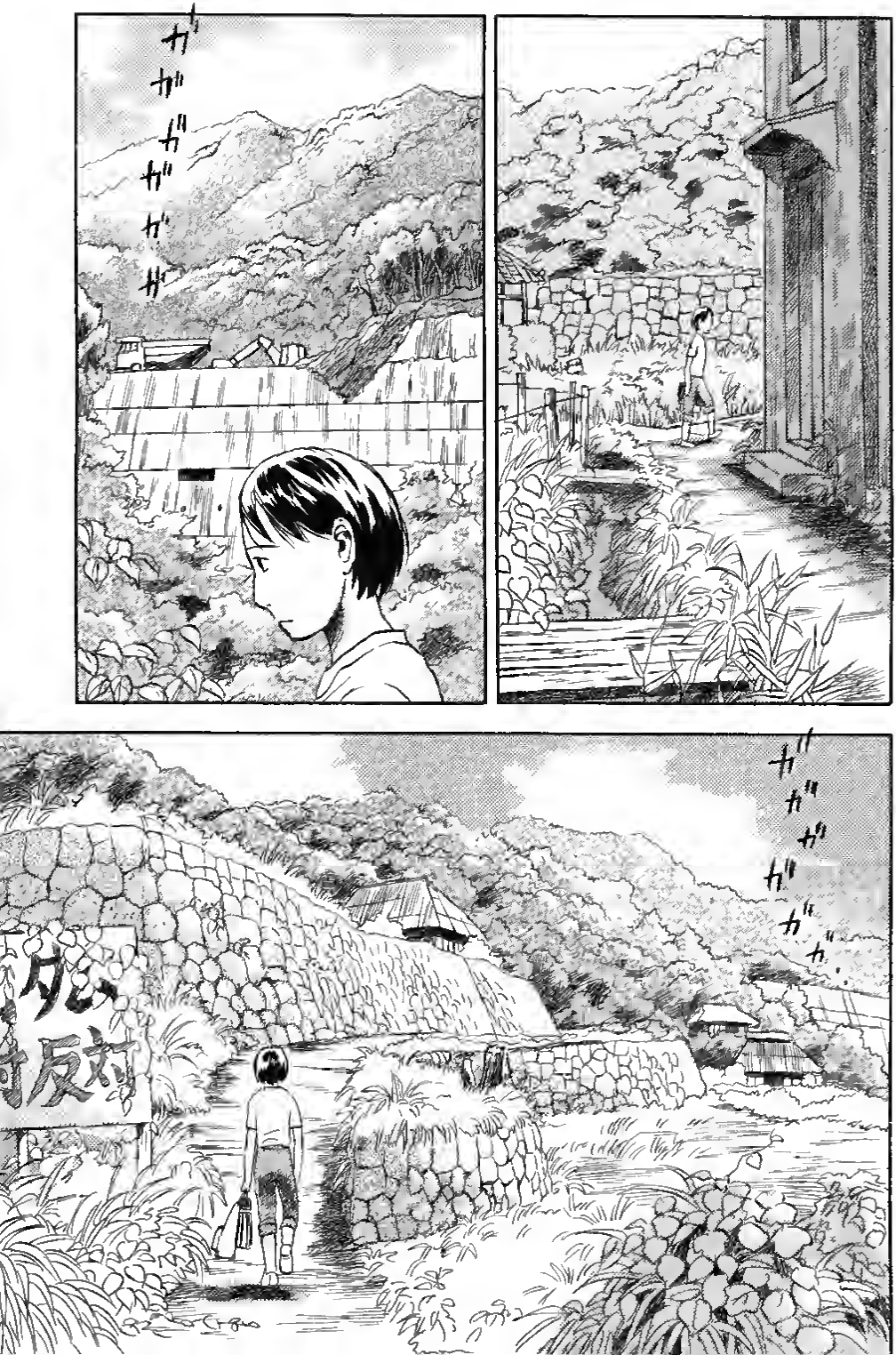

YEAH...
THEY MUST BE MOVING TOO.

R-REALLY...?
MOVING THIS SUMMER, TOO...
MY FAMILY'S ...

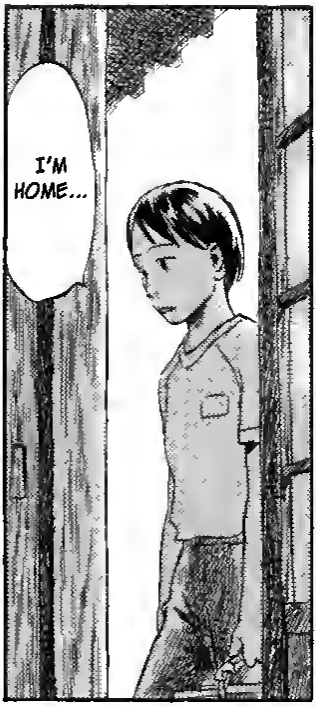
YOUR FAMILY SHOULD HURRY UP AND MOVE TOO, KAZUMI.


YUP.
HEY, YOU'RE MOVING TO THE SAME NEIGHBOUR-HOOD AS ME, RIGHT?

...IS YOUR DAD STILL AGAINST IT...?
OTHERWISE, THE LAND THAT THE DAM CONSTRUCTION PEOPLE HAVE ALLOCATED FOR OUR VILLAGE IS GOING TO RUN OUT.
YOU CAN'T JUST NOT MOVE FOREVER.



YEAH...
HE SAID IT'S TIME TO GIVE UP...
DID HE REALLY SAY THAT?


I'M HOME...

I'D ASSUME WE'RE DONE FOR...
AND WITH THE LEADER OF OUR ANTI-DAM GROUP GONE,

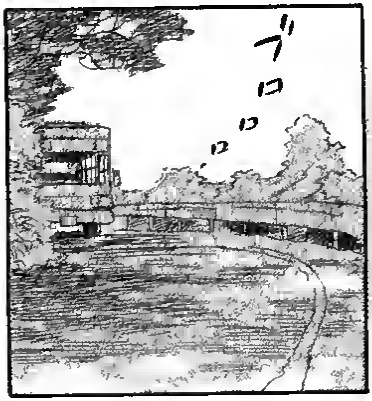
EVEN WE NEED TO... START THINKING ABOUT WHAT'S BEST FOR OUR DAUGHTER...
SHE HASN'T SAID ANYTHING FOR OUR SAKE,
BUT I KNOW DEEP INSIDE HER HEART, SHE MUST REALLY WANT TO MOVE LIKE ALL HER FRIENDS.

...IT JUST CAN'T BE HELPED.
MY FATHER'S ONLY ACTING OUT OF CONCERN FOR MY GRANDMA'S HEALTH...

I KNOW WE CAN'T EVER FORGET ABOUT SUMIO, BUT...
WE NEED TO START THINKING ABOUT KAZUMI MORE...
I KNOW.
IT'S JUST...
I JUST CAN'T ACCEPT IT...
WHY...
WHY DO WE HAVE TO LET SOMETHING SO IMPORTANT BE JUST TAKEN AWAY FROM US?
SURE, THIS VILLAGE MAY SEEM LIKE ANY OTHER VILLAGE,
BUT NO MATTER WHERE YOU GO, THERE WON'T BE A VILLAGE EXACTLY LIKE THIS ONE.
THAT WATER-FALL...
THAT BRIDGE... YOU CAN'T FIND THE EXACT SAME ONES ANYWHERE ELSE BUT HERE.
SO WHY...
WHY MUST WE BE SO POWER-LESS,
THAT WE CAN'T EVEN PROTECT OUR VILLAGE...?

BUT,
WE CAN'T JUST SELFISHLY THINK ONLY ABOUT OUR FEELINGS...

SNIFF...
YOU KNOW I CAN'T ACCEPT IT EITHER!
IF IT WERE UP TO ME, I'D STAY HERE FOREVER...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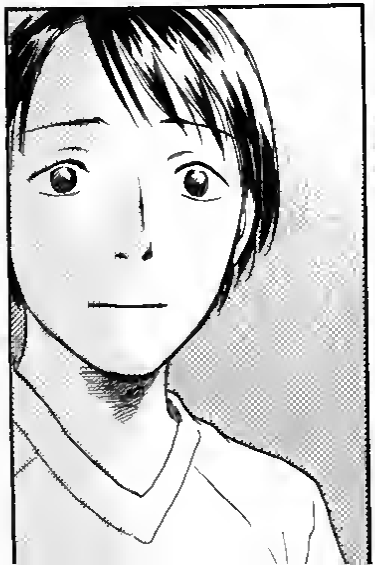


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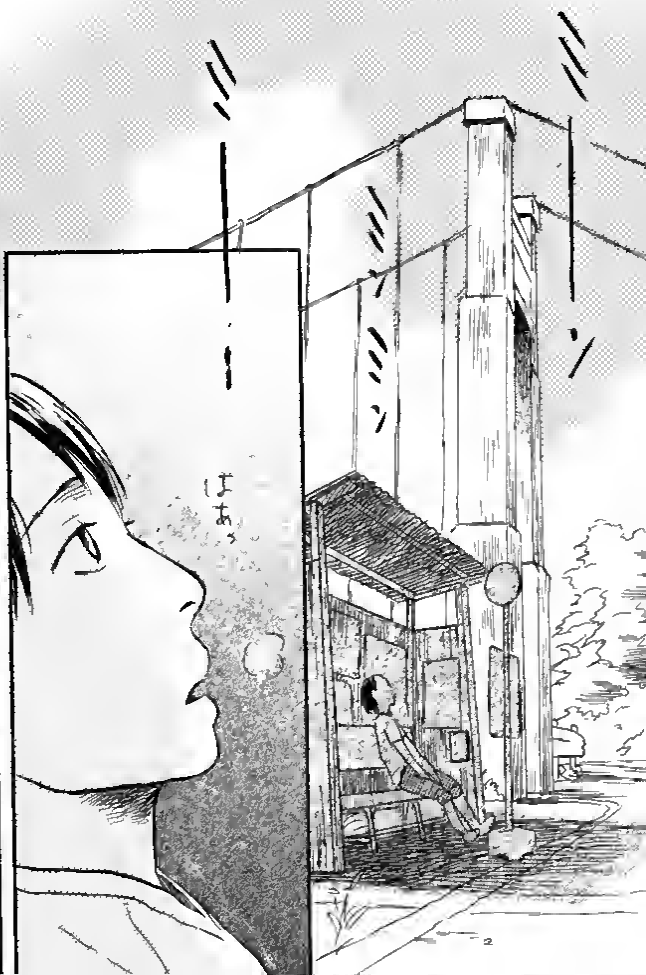


YEAH,
SAME HERE.
UGH,
IT'S JUST SO TENSE AT HOME THESE DAYS.
MY MOM'S PRETTY HARD-HEADED HERSELF, TOO.
PROBA-BLY.
HEY, TOORU ...
YOU'LL STAY HERE UNTIL YOU LEAVE FOR HIGH SCHOOL, RIGHT?
BUT EVEN SO,
I'M PROUD OF HER AND YOUR FATHER.
THIS TOWN REALLY IS TOO PRECIOUS TO GIVE UP SO EASILY...

I'VE GOT TO STUDY FOR MY TEST.
OH, SORRY FOR KEEPING YOU HERE SO LONG.
AH, I SHOULD GET GOING HOME NOW.
YOU DO?
...YEAH, I THINK SO TOO.
.....
SEE YOU LATER.
BYE.

カナカナカナカナ
SIGH...
ISN'T THERE ANYTHING FUN TO DO AROUND HERE?
カナカナカナカナ
カナカナカナカナカナ!
カナカナカナ

WHY'RE YOU CRYING?

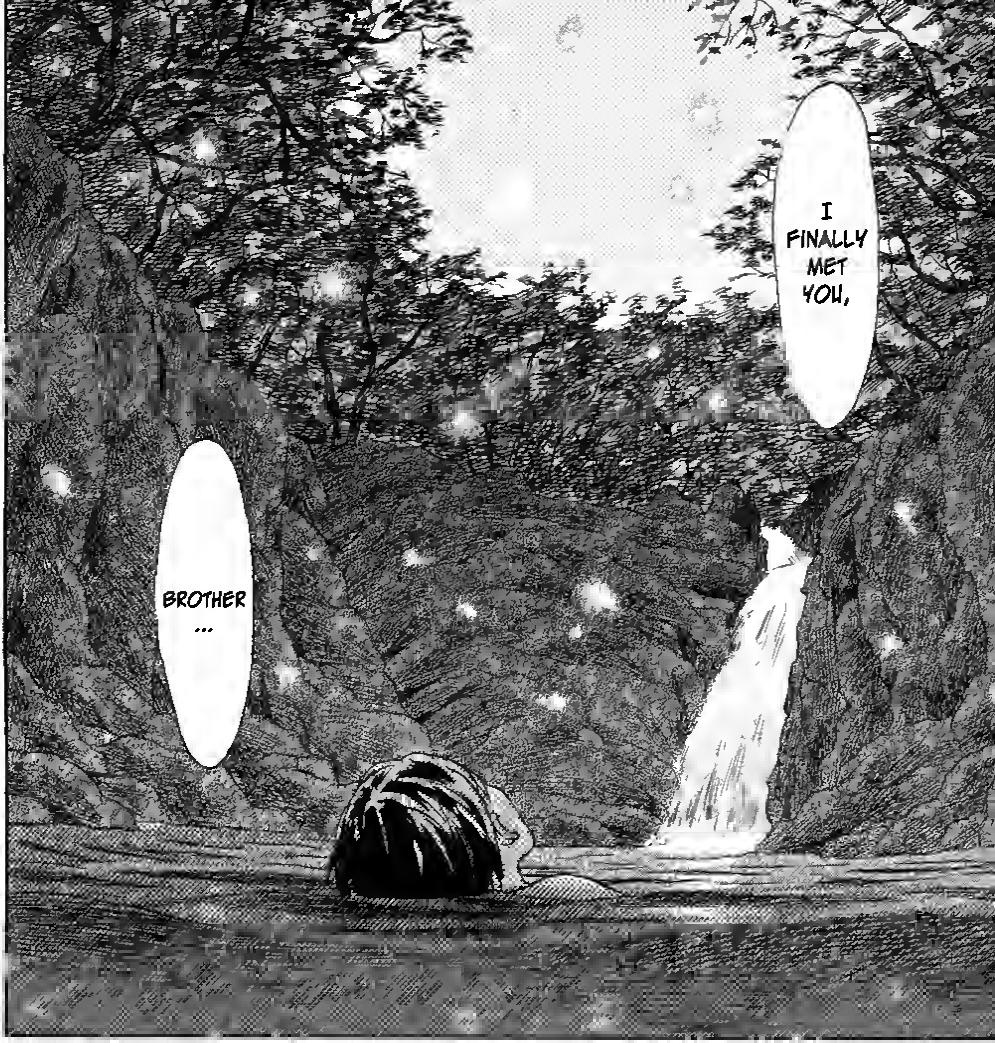
UMM, SUMIO IS MY NAME,
?
BUT YOU DON'T NEED TO CALL ME BROTHER.

B-
BROTHER SUMIO...?

I MEAN, YOU'RE OLDER THAN ME, RIGHT?
HAHA, YOU'RE SO WEIRD.
ハーハ
SO...
SUMIO, RIGHT?
R-RIGHT...
I GUESS I'M BEING WEIRD...
YEAH, JUST CALL ME SUMIO.
HEY,
DID YOU KNOW THERE'S A DRAGON THAT LIVES IN THE CAVE AT THE BOTTOM OF THIS WATERFALL?
REALLY?
LET'S GO LOOK FOR IT TOGETHER.

WAIT A SECOND...
AH,
SUMIO?

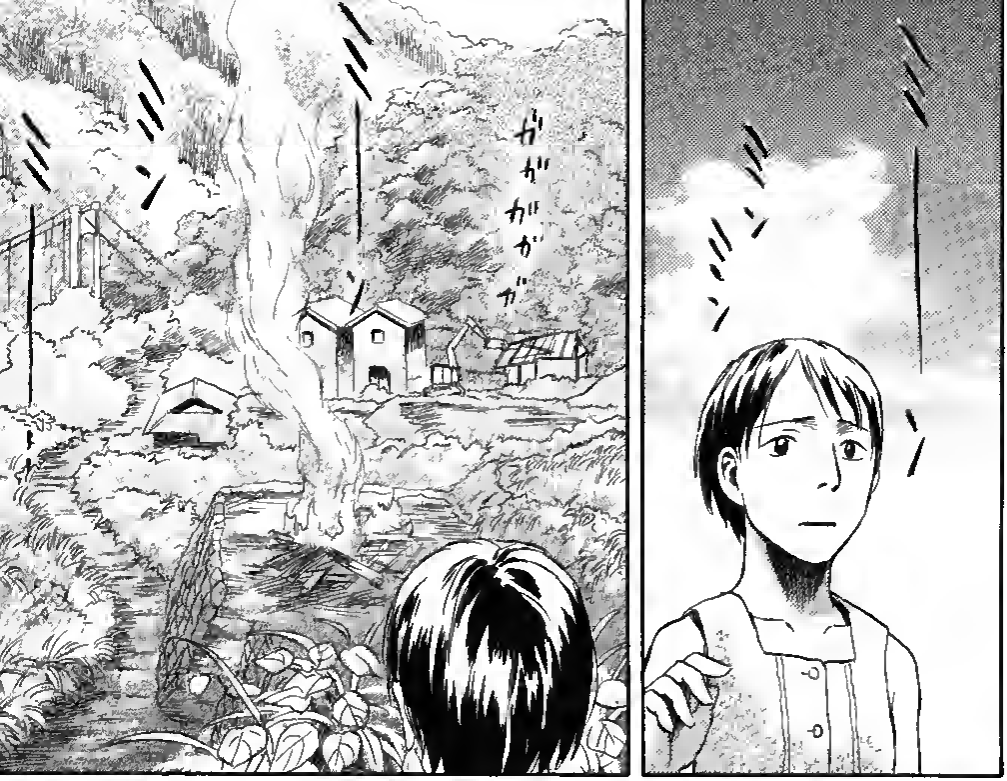
SUMIO?
I SAW HIM...
SO HE REALLY WAS HERE...


I FINALLY MET YOU,
BROTHER ...

KAZUMI!
SORRY MOM,
BUT LISTEN...
WHAT WERE YOU DOING OUT SO LATE?
AND YOU'RE ALL WET TOO...

MOM...?
YOU...
YOU THINK YOUR BROTHER MAY STILL BE ALIVE...?
I
WHAT WAS THAT?
KAZUMI,
YOUR FUTURE IS MORE IMPORTANT TO US.
IT'S ALRIGHT, MY DEAR.
WHAT'S THIS ALL OF A SUDDEN...

I REALLY DO LIKE IT HERE.
NO, IT'S NOTHING LIKE THAT.
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO STAY IN THIS VILLAGE, THEN...
SO YOU DON'T NEED TO SAY ANYTHING TO MAKE US FEEL BETTER.
I'LL BE SURE TO WRITE YOU LETTERS!
BYE THEN...
TAKE CARE.
YOU TOO, KAZUMI.
SO WE CAN STAY HERE AS LONG AS YOU LIKE.
I CAN COMMUTE TO THE HIGH SCHOOL FROM HERE,
WOW, I'M STARVING.
KAZUMI?
WHAT'RE WE EATING TONIGHT?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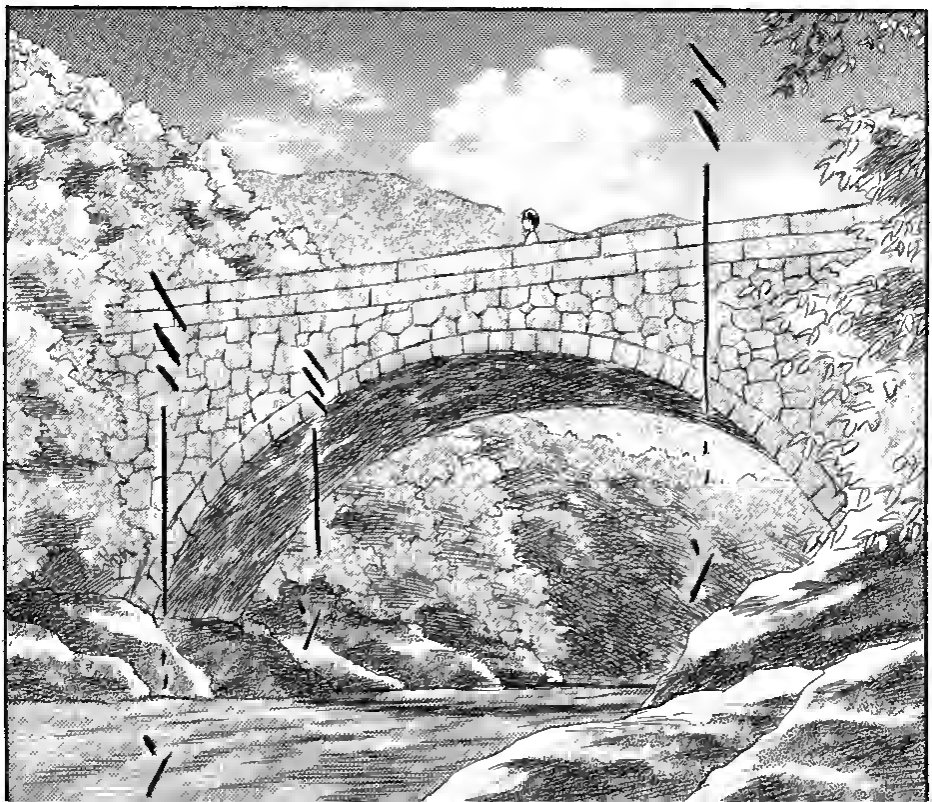


I WANT TO HURRY UP AND ENTER HIGH SCHOOL ALREADY.
IT'LL BE SO MUCH FUN TO TAKE THE BUS WITH YOU ON OUR WAY TO SCHOOL.

LOOKS LIKE ALL YOUR FRIENDS HAVE MOVED AWAY NOW.

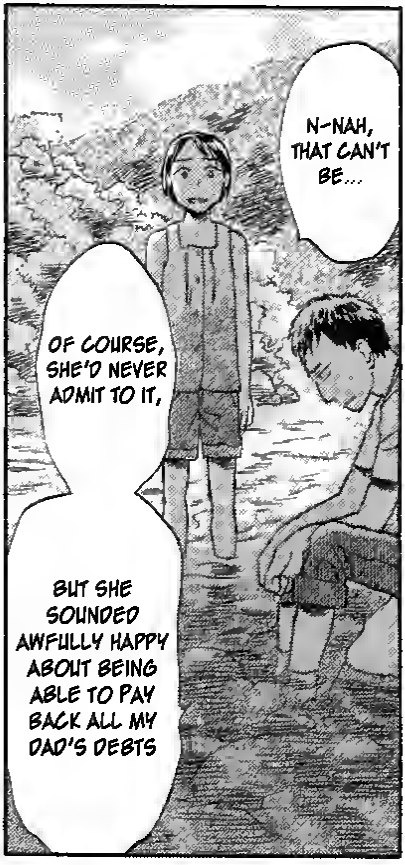
MY MOM...
WHAT...?
SHE DECIDED TO GIVE IN AND MOVE BACK TO MY DAD'S PLACE...

I'M SORRY ...
BUT I DON'T THINK THAT'LL BE POSSIBLE ANYMORE...

THAT'S...
THAT'S GREAT TO HEAR. YOUR PARENTS ARE BACK TOGETHER AGAIN...

I JUST... I JUST CAN'T SHAKE THE FEELING
THAT SHE ONLY OPPOSED THE DAM FOR AS LONG AS SHE DID...
SO THE DAM CONSTRUCTION PEOPLE WOULD PAY MORE MONEY FOR OUR LAND.
THAT...
MAY HAVE BEEN HER PLAN ALL ALONG.

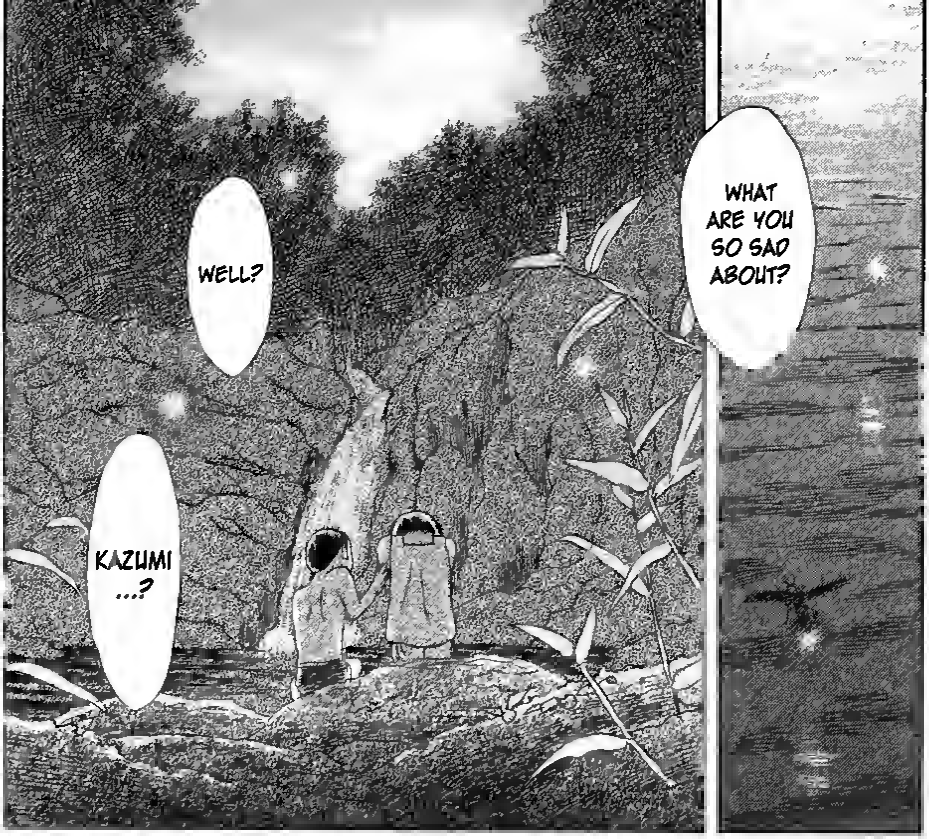
AND
HAVING ENOUGH MONEY TO SEND ME TO UNIVERSITY...

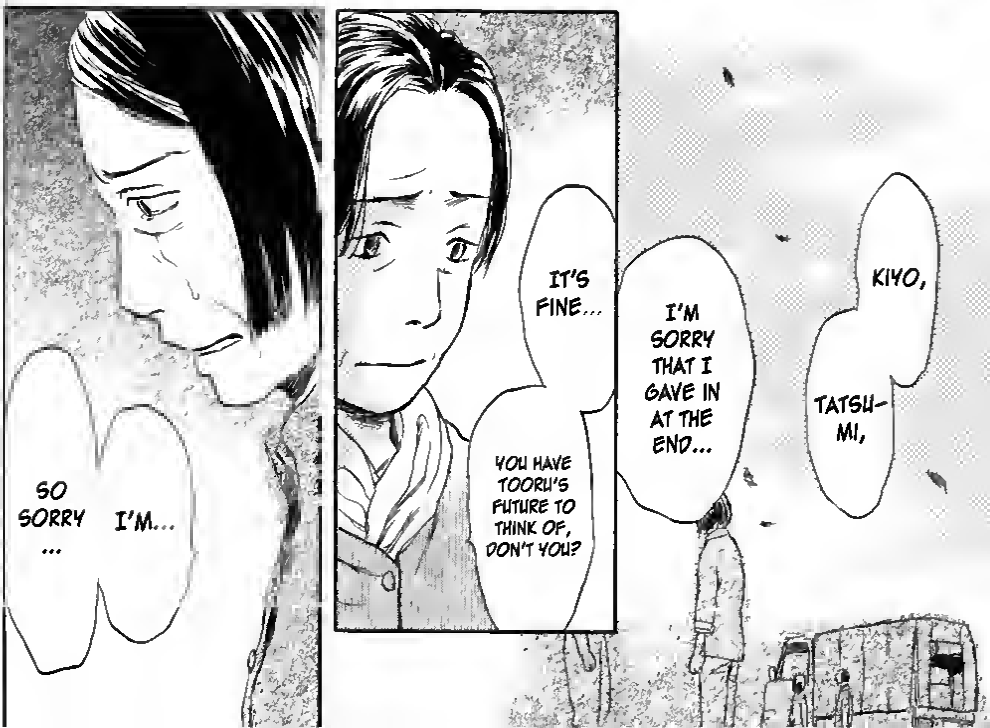

N-NAH, THAT CAN'T BE...
OF COURSE, SHE'D NEVER ADMIT TO IT,
BUT SHE SOUNDED AWFULLY HAPPY ABOUT BEING ABLE TO PAY BACK ALL MY DAD'S DEBTS

I...
I FEEL DISGUSTED BY WHAT SHE DID.
BUT TO BE BRUTALLY HONEST, A PART OF ME IS ALSO GLAD THAT I CAN RETURN HOME AND GO TO UNIVERSITY...

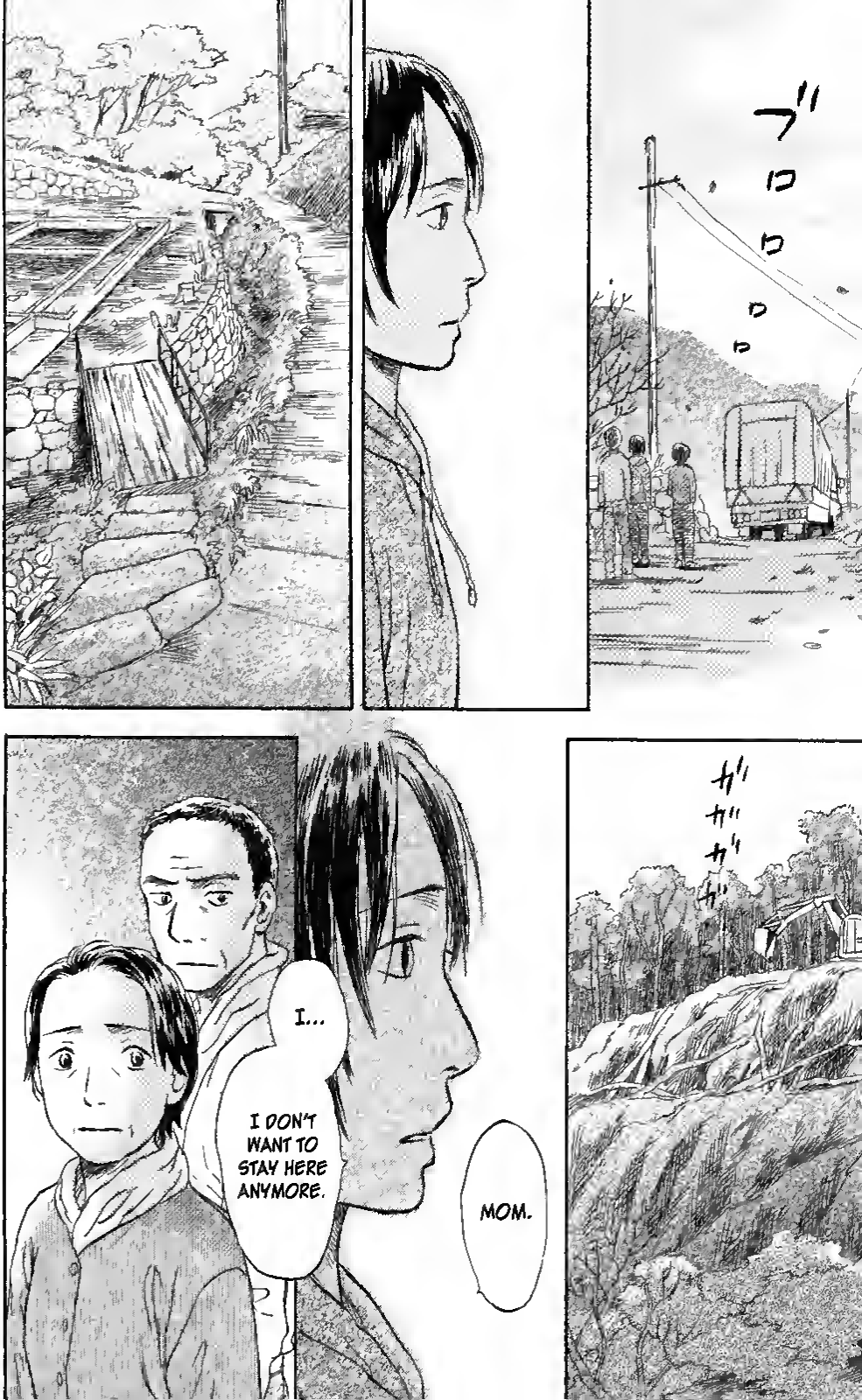
AH,
THERE YOU GO, CRYING AGAIN.
I'M SO SORRY, KAZUMI...
I'M THE WORST ...
PLEASE ...
HATE ME AS MUCH AS YOU WANT.
KAZUMI?
WHAT'RE YOU CRYING ABOUT,

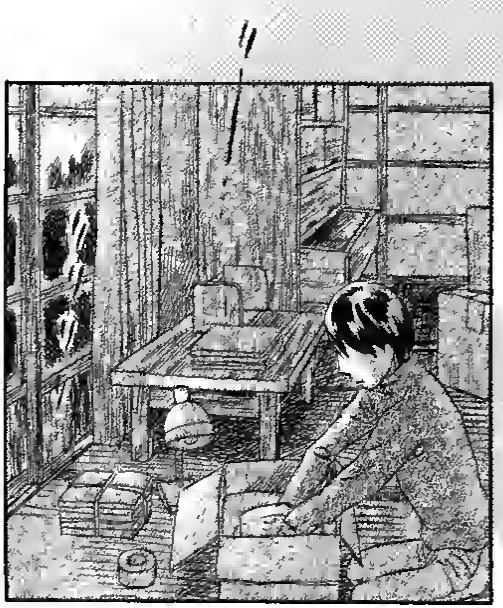
JEEZ, YOU'RE SO MUCH OLDER THAN ME,
BUT YOU'RE STILL JUST A BIG CRYBABY.
SUMIO...
DID YOUR DAD YELL AT YOU OR SOMETHING?
NO...
THEN DID YOU GET INTO A FIGHT WITH SOMEONE?
NO...
THEN... WHAT'S THE MATTER?

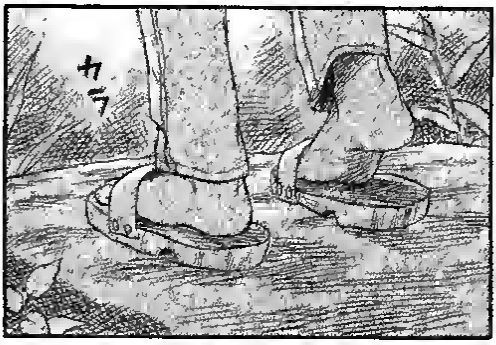

WHAT ARE YOU SO SAD ABOUT?
WELL?
KAZUMI ...?


KIYO, TATSU-MI,
I'M SORRY THAT I GAVE IN AT THE END...
IT'S FINE...
YOU HAVE TOORU'S FUTURE TO THINK OF, DON'T YOU?
SO SORRY ...
I'M...

THIS IS ALL THE DAM'S FAULT...
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT, HARU.
I'M JUST SO SORRY...
SORRY...
I JUST... DON'T WANT TO BE REMINDED OF THIS PLACE ANYMORE ...
WOULD IT BE... ALRIGHT IF I WROTE YOU A LETTER?
I THINK SO TOO...
.....


I...
I DON'T WANT TO STAY HERE ANYMORE.
MOM.

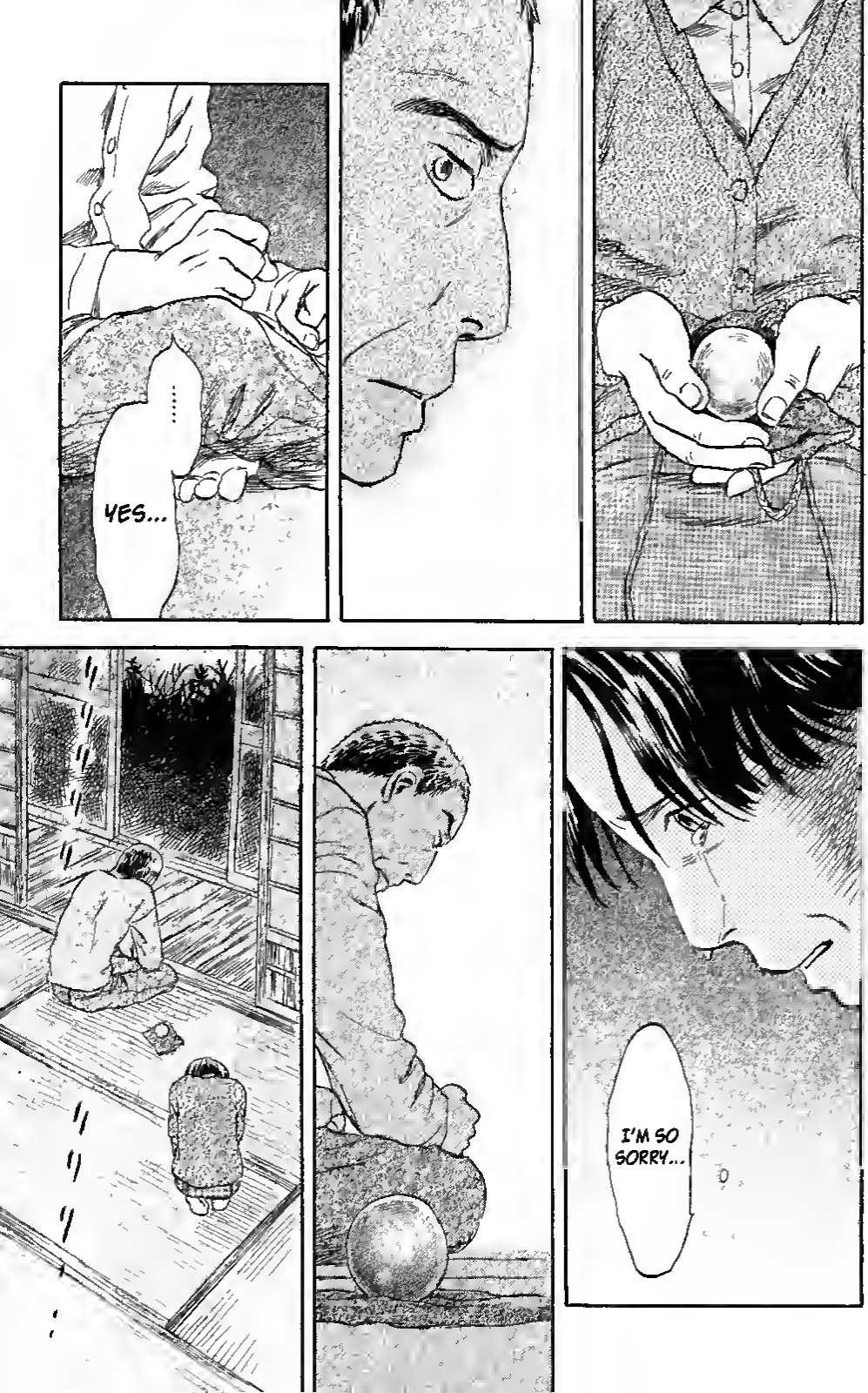



カラ

THAT'S FINE, DEAR...
WE UNDER-STAND...

TATSUMI,
I TOLD YOU, I WON'T ACCEPT IT.
USE THAT MONEY ON KAZUMI INSTEAD.
BUT...
I STILL HAVE MY FIELDS AND THE RIVER.
I'M SURE I'LL FIND A WAY TO MANAGE.
HERE...
THEN...
I'LL BE GOING ON AHEAD...
FORGIVE MY STUBBORNNESS...
TAKE GOOD CARE OF OUR DAUGHTER.
I... I THINK I OUGHT TO LEAVE THIS HERE WITH YOU...

*T/L Note I'm pretty sure it's a bank account but the hand obscures the letter so i'm not 100% confident
The name below the square symbol reads "Kanzawa Tatsumi"


YES...
I'M SO SORRY...

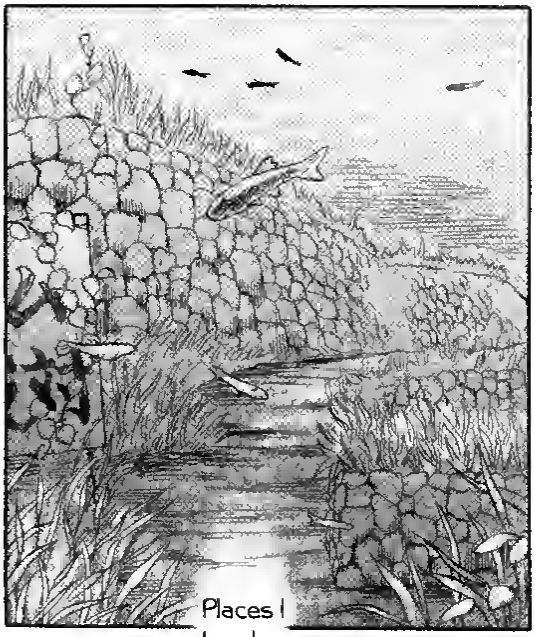
SUMIO!
ARE YOU THERE?
YUP.
SO THEN,
I'M AFRAID THE WATER'S TOO COLD FOR ME...
DO YOU WANNA HELP ME LOOK FOR THE DRAGON?
HEY, YOU'RE NOT CRYING TODAY.
NO, I'M NOT.

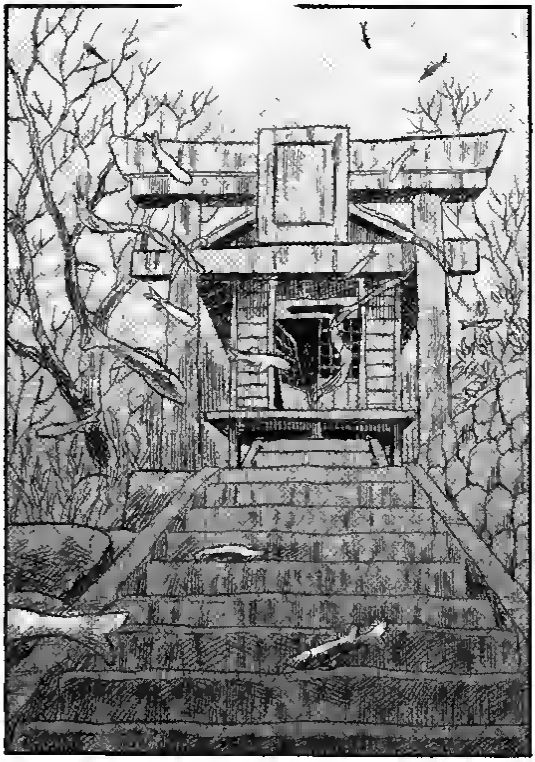
YOU'RE...
GOING AWAY TOO, KAZUMI?
I CAME HERE TODAY TO SAY GOOD BYE...
YOU SEE,
I'M MOVING TOMORROW.
W-
WHY?
I'M SORRY.
BUT I'LL COME BACK AND PLAY WITH Y——
WHY DOES EVERYONE HAVE TO GO AWAY?
I'M SORRY,
THERE'S JUST NOTHING I CAN DO...
NO!!

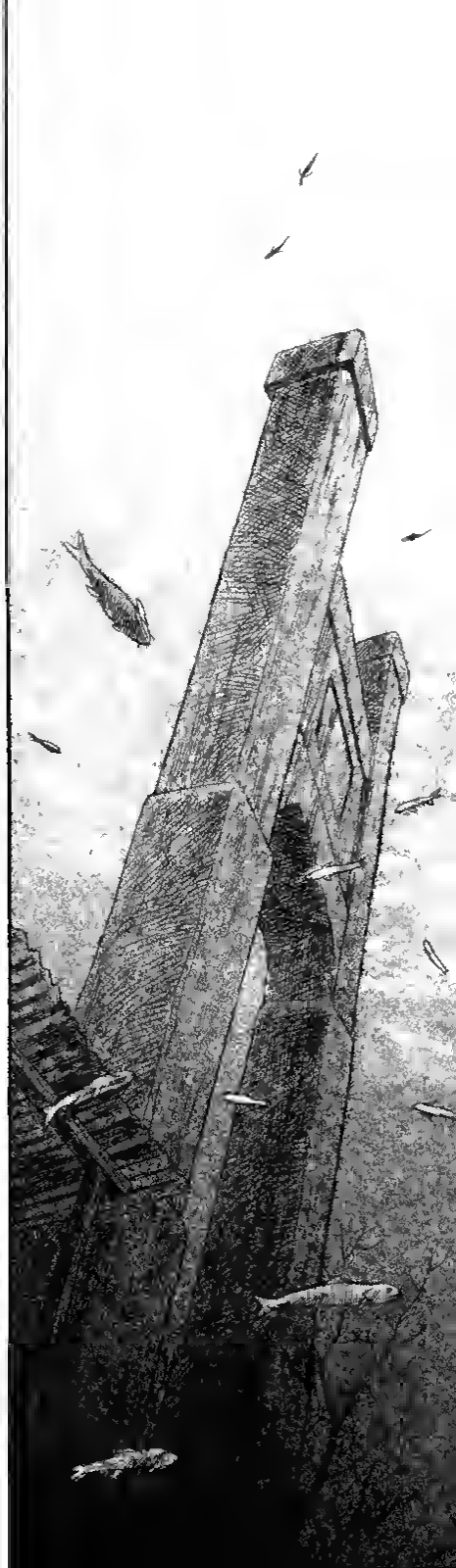
hah
hah
I'M SORRY.
hah
SO PLEASE DON'T GO,
I'M SORRY...
KAZUMI.
I'M SO SORRY...

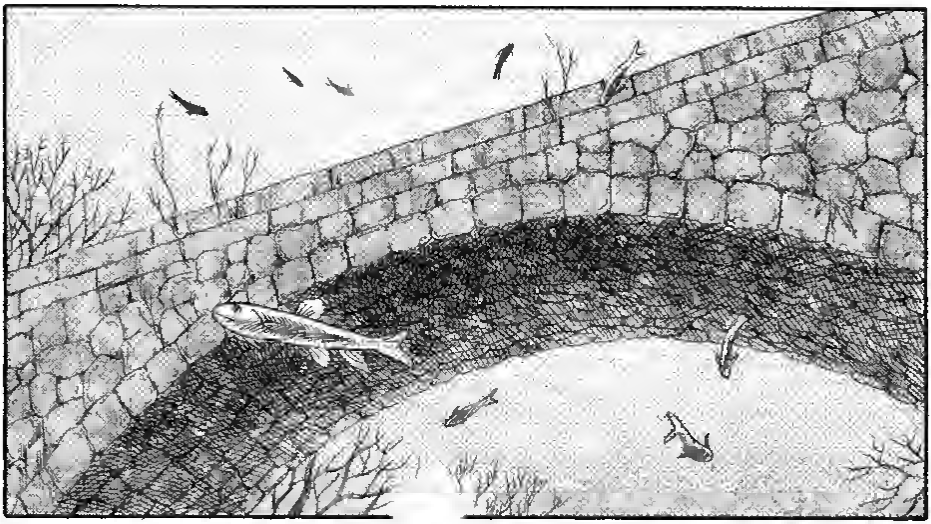
WELL...
TAKE CARE.
YOU TOO.

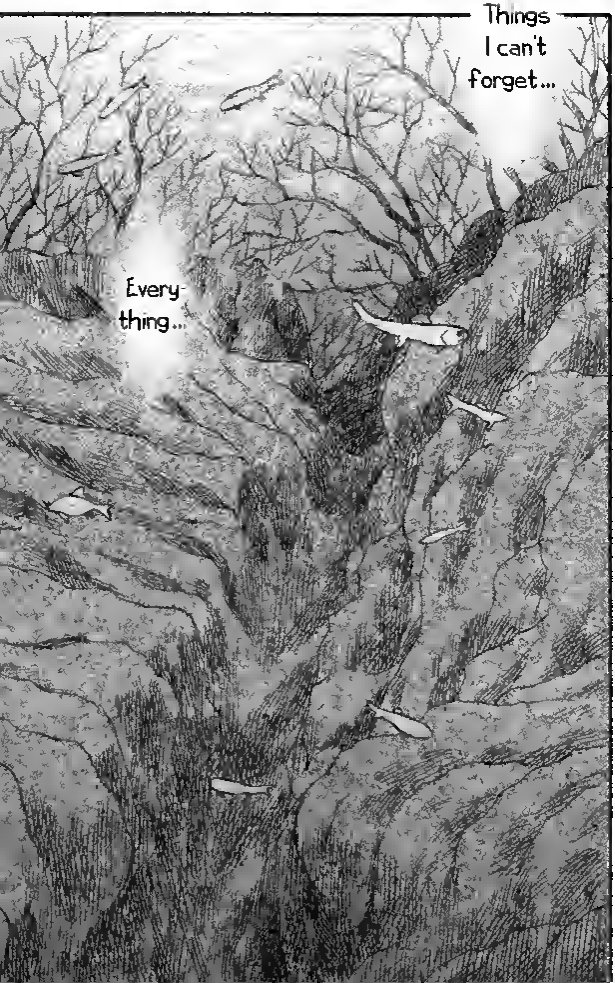
SNIFF
...
WWW...
WW...
I wish the water would sink it all away...
Clearly,
hide all of it deep below...

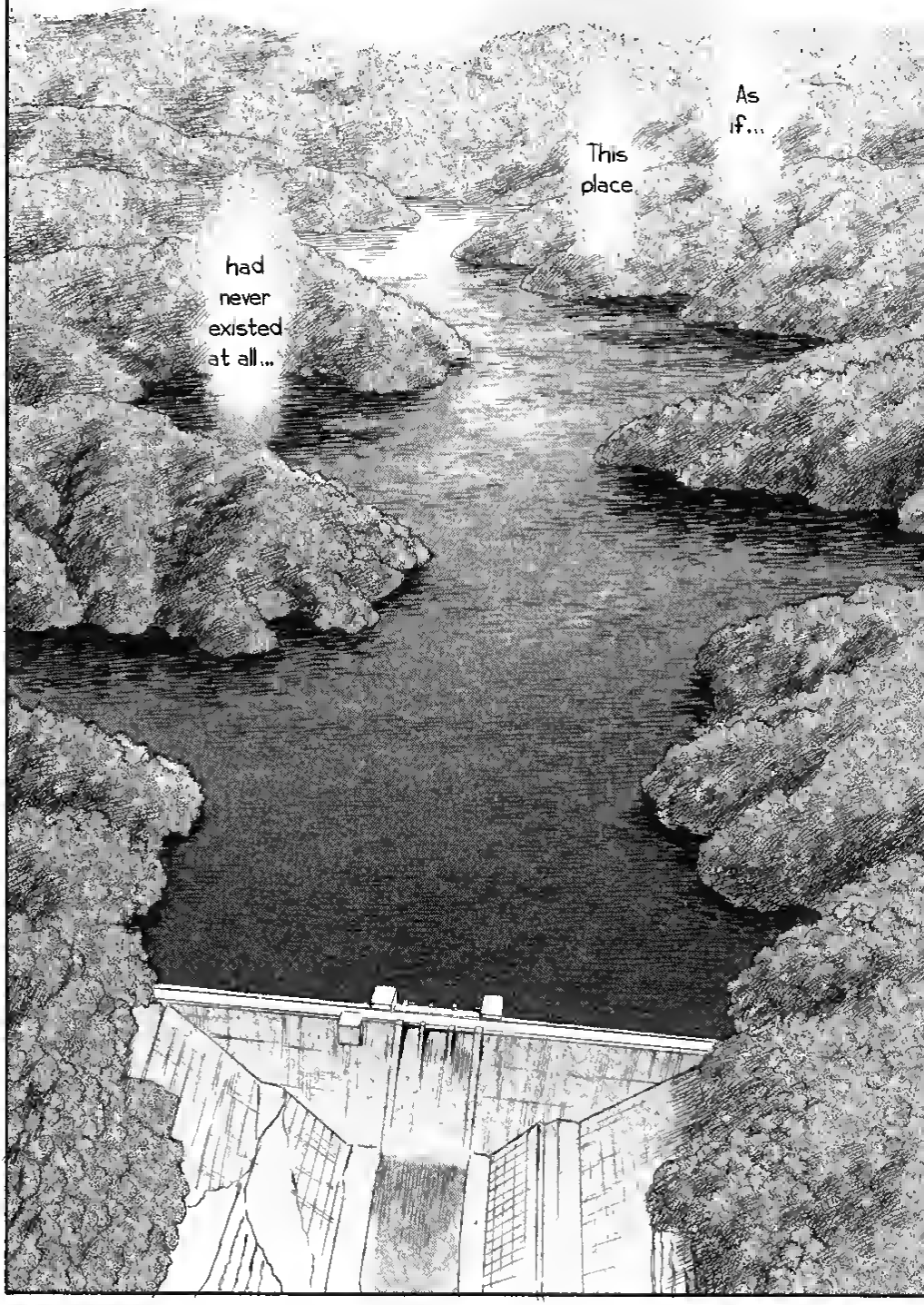

Places I
loved...

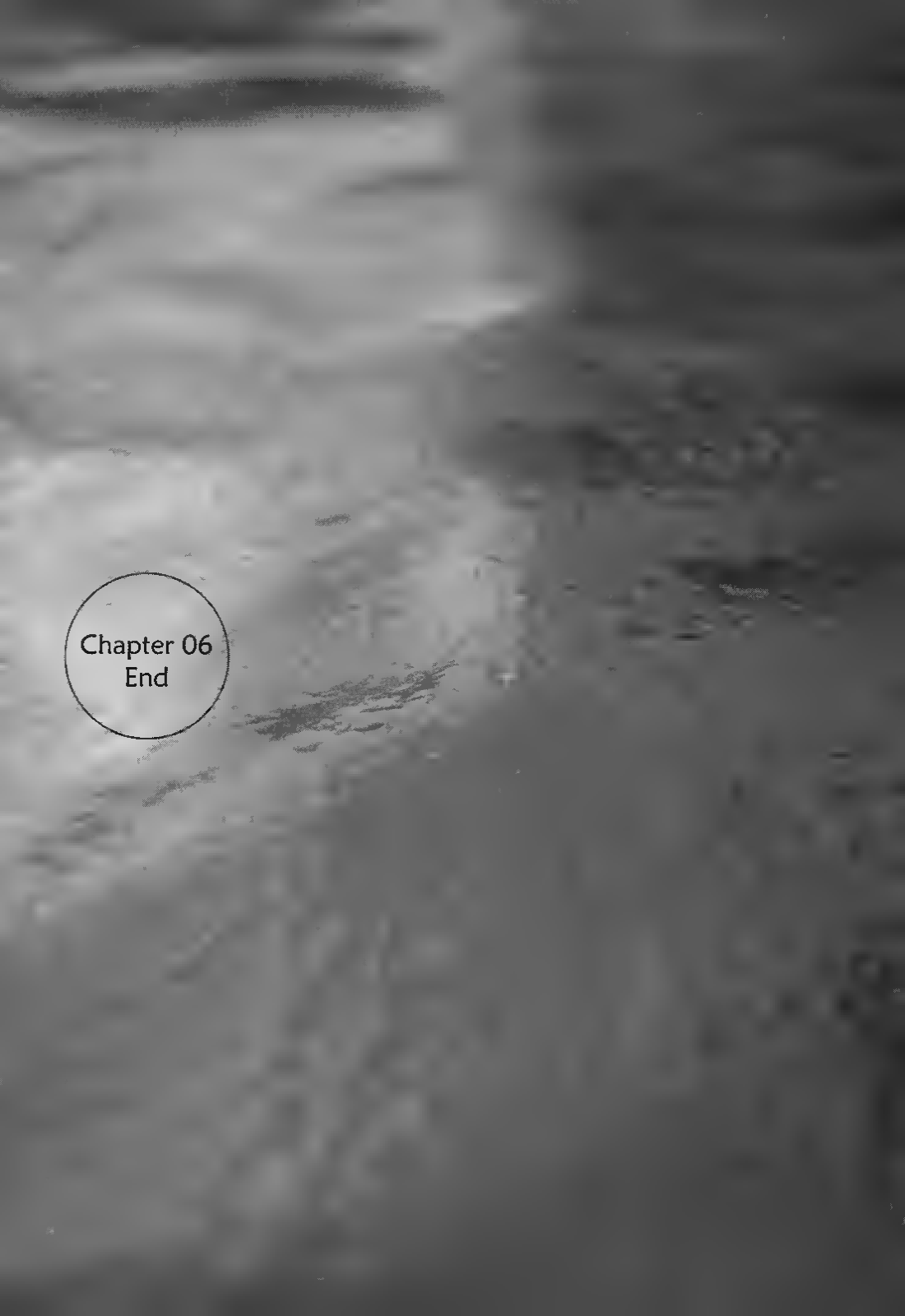







Things
I can't
forget...
Every-
thing...


As if...
This place
had never existed at all...


Chapter 06
End

初出一覧

第1話「遡上」――月刊アフタヌーン2010年1月号

第2話「水郷」――月刊アフタヌーン2010年2月号

第3話「細波」――月刊アフタヌーン2010年3月号

第4話「河童」――月刊アフタヌーン2010年4月号

第5話「浸水」――月刊アフタヌーン2010年5月号

第6話「蛍」――月刊アフタヌーン2010年6月号

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